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AMERICAN Missionary Register.

VOL. II.]

OCTOBER, 1821.

[No. 4.]

Biography.

LIFE OF THE REV. HANS EGEDE,

CONCLUDED FROM PAGE 89.

[Copied from the *London Missionary Register*.]

In the last Number, we traced the difficulties and encouragements of this Apostle of the Greenlanders, from his first landing in their country in 1721 to the close of the year 1727. We shall now finish the narrative of his Life; and shall hereafter add, from a recent publication, some account of the state of the Mission up to the present time.

Arrival of two Colleagues.

Appearances had hitherto been so unpromising, that the intrepid Egede had been, more than once, staggered in his hopes of the duration of the Mission. In 1728, however, ample dispositions were made to extend both the Mission and the Commerce, and to plant abiding Colonies for the cultivation of the land. Several ships arrived, with materials for erecting a fort and a new colony, a garrison for the protection of the trade, and a number of masons and carpenters.

By these ships Mr. Olaus Lange and Mr. Henry Milzoug arrived, as colleagues of Mr. Egede in his labours. On the return of the vessels, Mr. Egede's eldest son went to Copenhagen, to prosecute his studies: with him went Poek and his wife, now named Christian and Christiana; and two Greenland Boys and a Girl, who had just before made confession of their faith and been baptized.

Children of Heathen Parents baptized.

On the arrival of his colleagues, Mr. Oct. 1821.

Egede laid a written proposal before them, on the subject of baptizing the Children of Heathen Parents. Nothing had been effected among the Adult Natives, but to gain their cold assent to the Word, without any reflection on their misery or any desire after grace: and, not bearing to see the poor Children die away without baptism, he had come to a conclusion, in the presence of God, to make those Children partakers of holy baptism whose Parents gave their assent to the True Religion; in the hope that the Parents would become more resident in the neighbourhood, and would allow their Children to be brought up in the knowledge and fear of God.

Both his colleagues acquiesced in this plan; and, the next year, they received the approbation of the Mission College, provided the following conditions were complied with:—1. That the Parents should freely consent to the baptism of their Children, without either blandishment or compulsion—2. That the Parents did not desire baptism for their Children out of superstitious feeling,

imagining that it might contribute to their health and strength; as, in former years, the natives had desired the Missionary to breathe on their sick in order to their recovery—3. That the Parents would bind themselves to allow their baptized Children to be instructed. The Missionaries were enjoined by the College to keep an exact Register, that they might always know what Children they had baptized, and what was become of them: and with respect to Adults, it was directed that none should be baptized until they had been instructed in the necessary points of Christianity, and gave evidence of a true desire for baptism.

Mr. Egede entered on this plan, in February 1729, by the baptism of 16 Children, which were afterwards increased to 150.

But his hopes from this quarter were greatly disappointed by the suspicions and indifference of the Natives. He desired them to send to the Colony, first one company of Children and then another; each to be under his care for a month, that he might instruct one class after another; but they would not comply; and, when he went to visit them, they would hide their Children lest he should take them away; so that he could not even instruct them, as he had been accustomed to do before, in their Parents' houses. They had professed desire after God's Word; but most of the Parents, whose Children he had baptized, and who had promised to stay in his neighbourhood and allow their Children to receive Christian Education, wandered so far away, that his intercourse with them was broken off, and his hopes respecting them consequently disappointed.

The Mission reduced to Extremities.

On the arrival of the supplies which were sent with Mr. Egede's colleagues, the Colony, which had been formed at Haabets-Oe (Hope Island,) at the mouth of Ball's River, was removed to the main land, four leagues up the river, and called Godthaab (Good Hope.)

A contagious disorder, however, attacked the new comers, which gave a fatal blow to the plan for extending the Colonies. The people became fretful and discontented, and the soldiers began to mutiny; so that the lives of the Missionaries were in jeopardy, the new settlers looking on them as the cause of their transportation to this inhospitable shore. Mr. Egede, who could before sleep secure in the tents of the Savages, was now compelled to have a watch and weapons around his bed to protect him against his Fellow-Christians!

The Greenlanders were, moreover, offended at this great accession of foreigners, especially as many of them were military men. When they died so fast, it was attributed to the art of a famous Angekok, who had promised to destroy the Danes by his magic; but when the people saw that some survived, and particularly the Minister, whom they looked upon to be the proper Lord of the Europeans, most of them left this part of the coast, and removed to Disko Bay. The Mission was thus more hindered than promoted, by the attempt to establish fortresses with armed men.

The death of the King of Denmark, which took place soon after, seemed to give a mortal blow to the projects which had been carried on at such expense of money and labour. It appearing to his successor, that there was no probability that the expenditure would be reimbursed by the trade, and that there was little prospect of the conversion of the infidels, from the experience of the ten years which had passed, a Royal Mandate was transmitted in 1731, that the undertaking should be relinquished, and that all the people should return.

Preserved by the Constancy of Mr. Egede.

In this order for relinquishing the Colony, it was left to Mr. Egede's option to remain in the country; and permission was given to retain as many of the settlers as might be willing to

stay with him, and as much provision as would suffice for a year's consumption; but, beyond this, he was expressly told that he could expect no further assistance.

Under such circumstances, however, no one could bring his mind to stay with this intrepid man; and he saw himself on the point of abandoning, with a heavy heart, after ten years toil, a country to which he had worked his way with such persevering zeal, and where he had baptized 150 Children, who must now be deserted. The ship proved, however, to be too little to carry away all the stock; and, as whatever was left behind would have fallen a prey either to the Greenlanders or to foreign sailors, his remonstrances effected so much, that ten sailors and a year's provision were left behind, on his binding himself to indemnify the officers in case they should suffer by this step: nay, so determined was he in the prosecution of his great object, that he undertook to carry on the trade at his own hazard, by the agency of his second son; and, in case no ship should come the following year, which yet he earnestly requested, he engaged to send home the merchandize to its proper destination by such foreign ships as might come on the coast.

So resolute was this zealous servant of God in carrying on a work, begun in faith among the faithless—though he had hitherto seen so little fruit of his labours and privations; and though he must now fluctuate, at least for a year, between the flattering hope of being supported from his native country, and the dreadful fear of being wholly abandoned.

But his faith and hope were not disappointed. The King laid to heart the mournful representations of the Missionary; and sent him the necessary supplies in the year 1732, but still without assurance of any further support. In the mean time his people had been so successful in procuring blubber, that he was enabled to send home a larger cargo than in any of the former years,

in which so many more persons were employed. This appears to have raised the spirits of his countrymen; for, in May 1733, after living in suspense between hope and fear for two years, he was rejoiced by the arrival of the ship, with assurances that the Trade would be begun anew and the Mission supported, and that the King had devoted to these objects an annual benefaction of 400*l*.

Fickleness of the Natives.

When Mr. Egede's two Colleagues, with the Governor, Officers, and people, left the Colony, the Natives expressed their sorrow; and could not comprehend the reason assigned for their departure—that so many people cost more than they could earn or acquire in Greenland: as they thought that such an opulent Prince as theirs, who had such store of bread and meat in his country, must be able to maintain more people than these; or that, at all events, they might even live like themselves. When it was further alleged as a reason for the recall of the people, that the persons who sent them had been discouraged by the disregard of the Greenlanders to God and His Word, they complained heavily that they had been traduced and misrepresented to the King, and declared themselves willing to hear and believe all that the Missionary taught them. But, notwithstanding these professions, Mr. Egede was soon convinced how little their pretended good-will and desire after God's Word was to be depended on, by their conduct, as before stated, with respect to the baptized Children.

Arrival of Three Missionaries of the United Brethren.

The state of the Mission and the vagrancy of the Greenlanders had obliged Mr. Egede to suspend entirely the baptism of the Native Children. He had, moreover, been so harassed by the series of labour, vexation, and anxiety through which he had passed, and by a disorder in his breast which lay heavy upon him, that he could not well travel

about among the Heathen as he had been accustomed, but was compelled to resign the instruction of them very much to his son. It was, therefore, with devout thankfulness, that he welcomed Christian David, Matthew Stach, and Christian Stach, the first Messengers to the Heathen of Greenland from the United Brethren. They arrived in the ship which brought the intelligence that the Colony and the Mission were to be supported.

The offer of these Brethren to proceed to Greenland appears to have been one inducement with the King of Denmark to renew his support of Mr. Egede; and he wrote to him, with his own hand, desiring him to receive the Brethren kindly, and to forward their labours among the Heathen. He gladly complied with the King's directions, and assisted the Brethren in forming their first Settlement, near Godthaab, which they called New Herrnhuth, after the Brethren's Settlement of Herrnhuth, in upper Lusatia, from which these Missionaries came.

Ravages of the Small Pox.

Soon after the arrival of these Brethren, a new calamity visited the Mission. Six Greenlanders had accompanied the Missionaries and Colonists, on their quitting the coast, in 1731. Two of these, a Boy and a Girl, were sent back to their native country, in an unhealthy state, in the vessel which brought the Brethren. The Girl died at sea; but the Boy reached Greenland, to all appearance well. Soon after, however, the Small-Pox broke out on him; but, before the nature of his disorder was ascertained, he had infected many of his countrymen.

Mr. Egede sent expresses everywhere, to warn the Natives of their danger; and to desire them to stay at home, as those who were already infected could not escape; and he advised such as were yet uninfected not to admit any fugitives on their lands. But his admonitions were in vain; those who had caught the distemper and fled,

found the country everywhere open before them; the Greenlanders not being accustomed to refuse hospitality to strangers. By these means, the disease diffused itself so widely as to threaten the extirpation of the whole nation; and it was greatly aggravated by the ignorance and impatience of the people; some stabbing themselves, or plunging into the sea, to put a speedy end to their torment.

Yet little salutary influence was perceived on the minds of the people. Their customary inattention and obduracy in general prevailed; nor did the living bewail, as had been usual with them, the death of their nearest relatives. Some of the old people, indeed cried to God in their distress, as well as they knew how: but when, notwithstanding, their distress increased, they would utter impatient and desponding, and even blasphemous speeches, would hear nothing of patience and resignation to the will of God, nor would accept of any admonition to commit their souls to the Faithful Shepherd, but died away in their impenitence and unbelief.

Mr. Egede's feelings on this melancholy occasion may be easily imagined. He did not, however, sit down in despair: but went about in all directions, sometimes alone, and at others accompanied by his Moravian Friends; or sent his Son, to instruct and comfort the sufferers, and to prepare them for death.

Some truly affecting scenes were witnessed on these occasions. In most places, nothing was found but depopulated houses and unburied bodies; some within the habitations, and others lying without in the snow: these last they covered with stones. In one instance they found only a Girl, with her three little Brothers; the Girl had the Small-Pox upon her: the Father of this bereaved family, having first buried all the people of the island, laid himself and his youngest sick child in a grave raised with stone: and directed his daughter to cover their bodies with skins and

stones, that they might not be devoured by the foxes and ravens: then she and her brothers were to live on a couple of seals and some dried herrings that were left, till they could get to the Missionaries. Mr. Egede sent for them to the Colony, and lodged all the sick that fled to him, as did the Moravian Brethren. They laid as many in their own rooms and chambers as could be accommodated, and attended and nursed them with all possible care; although the insufferable effluvia from the sick and dying greatly affected their own health.

This kindness was not without its reward. Many of the Natives were deeply impressed by such evident proofs of love, which were more than they ever expected, even from their own countrymen. One man, who had always derided the Missionaries in the days of his health, said to Mr. Egede before his end—"Thou hast done for us what our own people would not do: for thou hast fed us, when we had nothing to eat—thou hast buried our dead, who would else have been consumed by the dogs, foxes, and ravens—thou hast also instructed us in the knowledge of God, and hast told us of a better life." Mr. Egede had also the happiness of seeing, in some of the Children whom he had baptized, a resigned expectation of death, and a comfortable hope of a resurrection to a better life.

This virulent contagion raged from September 1773 to June 1734; and extended itself, as the Missionaries learned, forty leagues to the north, and almost as far to the south of Godthaab. In a district of eight leagues from that Colony, the number of the dead amounted, in January 1734, to 500. Mr. Egede computed the total number of deaths at from two to three thousand; while the whole population on the coast amounted, according to the best calculation which could be made, but to six or seven thousand.

Arrival of more Missionaries, both Danish and Moravian.

Under such discouraging circumstances did the Missionaries enter on the year 1734. But in the course of that year, both Mr. Egede and his friends received considerable reinforcements. Three ships were sent to Greenland this year: by one of them Mr. Egede was joined, at Godthaab, by Mr. Ohnsorg, a new Missionary: by the second, Mr. Bing, another Danish Missionary, and Mr. Egede's eldest son, who had been studying at Copenhagen, reached Disko Bay, where they were to establish the new Colony of Christianshaab: by the third vessel, loaded with building materials for this Colony, Frederick Boehnish and John Beck, two Missionaries of the United Brethren, took their passage.

Mr. Egede determines to return to Denmark.

Soon after the arrival of Mr. Paul Egede in Disko Bay, he visited his parents at Godthaab, and stayed there till his father quitted the Mission; when he returned to Christianshaab, and presided over that Mission till the year 1740. His company and assistance were, doubtless, a great comfort to his parents; but various reasons induced his father to wish to return to Denmark.

So much has been already related of this exemplary man, whom it pleased God to employ as His signal instrument in first planting the gospel in Greenland, that nothing remains but to mention the reasons of his departure, and the ensuing incidents of his life.

He came to Greenland with the intention to offer up his life to the service of the Heathen: and it is manifest how firmly he adhered to his design; for he remained at his post, when no one was left but himself, his family, and a few sailors, without any assurance of future support. His joy was great, when, in 1733, he received the royal promise that the mission should be prosecuted with fresh vigour: but the circumstan-

ees which followed, in connexion with the state of his family and his own infirmities, awakened an earnest desire in him of revisiting his native country. Enfeebled by the cares and toils which he had undergone, he could no longer discharge his office with his wonted alacrity; but had, for some time, waited for the assistance which the concerns of the Mission required. When, therefore, in 1734, only three missionaries were sent, whom he thought insufficient for a field so extensive, he determined to sue for his dismissal, and to go to Copenhagen, that he might represent at the fountain-head the state of the Mission, and procure a reinforcement competent to its successful prosecution: in 1735, he accordingly received his discharge, conveyed in the most gracious terms.

Death of Mrs. Egede.

Of this discharge from his labour Mr. Egede was, for some time, prevented from availing himself, by the illness of his wife; which, at length, terminated in her dissolution, on the 21st of December, 1736.

Mr. Egede drew the character of his deceased partner in the following terms:—

“The highest panegyric with which I can crown her name falls far short of her piety and Christian virtues. I will not expatiate on her excellencies in domestic life; nor describe what a faithful helpmate she was to me, and what a tender mother to her children. Let it suffice to mention, how compliable she was to my will, as soon as she got an insight into the resolution which I had formed of forsaking my native country to repair to Greenland, that I might instruct the ignorant inhabitants in the truths of Christianity: for, though friends and relations vehemently importuned her to withstand, for her own sake, for mine, and for that of our tender offspring, this apparently so frantic project; yet, out of love to God and me, she joined her heart and hand with me in my hazardous enterprize, and, like a faithful Sarah, accompanied her

husband, not to some Canaan, but to a strange and uncultivated Heathen Land. And it is well known to many with what patience, nay with what alacrity, she put her shoulder with mine, to bear her part of the labours and adversities which we had to endure; nay, how often she comforted and cheered up my mind, when disheartened and oppressed by reiterated obstacles and repulses.”

So far Mr. Egede. “I have had occasion,” says Crantz, “several times to mention this magnanimous woman, whom I may with propriety call a Christian Heroine. I will only add, that I have never heard her name mentioned by the brethren, but with the most respectful and tender impression; as indeed she treated them on all occasions, as if they had been her children.”

Mr. Egede's return to Denmark, and Death.

Mr. Egede's grief for the loss of his wife gradually wasted his vigour, both of body and mind; and this was aggravated by a painful attack of the scurvy. At length the vessel arrived in which he was to be carried from Greenland, after the hard and seemingly fruitless labour of fifteen years.

He preached a farewell sermon from Isaiah xlix. 4. *I said, I have laboured in vain; I have spent my strength for nought and in vain. Yet surely my judgment is with the Lord, and my work with my God.* After the sermon he baptized a little Greenland boy.

The parting interview of Mr. Egede with the Moravian Brethren was very affecting. They begged him to forgive all failings on their part; and he assured them of his sincere love, which would make it a pleasure to him to charge himself with their concerns as zealously in Copenhagen as he had done in Greenland. He implored the Divine blessing and assistance in their office; and expressed a lively hope, that God would still bring His cause in

Greenland, which he has now left with a heavy heart, to a glorious issue.

On the 9th of August, 1737, he set sail, with his youngest son and two daughters; and arrived in Copenhagen on the 24th of September. He there interred, in the church yard of St. Nicholas, the remains of his beloved wife, which he had taken with him.

Soon after Mr. Egede's arrival in Copenhagen, he had an audience of the King; on which occasion he made known his sentiments on the most effectual means of prosecuting the Mission to advantage. He was afterwards

appointed Superintendent of the Mission to Greenland, with a stipend of 100*l.* per annum; and was commissioned to found a Seminary, in which he taught the students the Greenland tongue, that missionaries and catechists might be furnished from among them for the work which he had himself so laboriously begun.

The latter years of this venerable man were spent in retirement, with his daughter, on the island of Falster, where he closed his useful and exemplary life, on the 5th of November, 1758, in the 73d year of his age.

To this Life of the Apostle of the Greenlanders, we shall subjoin, in the next number, some account of the Danish Mission since his time.

The Reader must distinguish between the Danish Mission to Greenland and that of the United Brethren. The origin of both these Missions is stated in the preceding Narrative; but though they have assisted each other, they have been always distinct Missions, and have proceeded on somewhat different plans. The Danish Mission begun by Egede, first introduced Christianity into Greenland; and this Mission has been continued, under the direction of the Royal Mission College at Copenhagen, to the present time, and embraces in its objects the whole of the coast. The Mission of the United Brethren is limited to three Stations—New Herrnhut, Lichtenfels, and Lichtenau. In a Life of Matthew Stach, one of the Missionaries of the Brethren mentioned in the preceding Narrative, which we shall hereafter lay before our Readers, we shall have an opportunity of tracing the principal features of the Brethren's Mission to this coast

Reports of Societies.

SEVENTEENTH REPORT OF THE BRITISH AND FOREIGN BIBLE SOCIETY,

DELIVERED AT FREE-MASON'S HALL, LONDON,
MAY 2, 1821.

Secretaries, Rev. JOHN OWEN, A. M. Rev. J. HUGHES, A. M. Rev. C. F. A. STEINKOPFF, D. D.—Treasurer, JOHN THORNTON. Esq.

THIS Report occupies seventy-six octavo pages. Of these, sixty-four are devoted to a survey of the operations of the principal Bible Societies throughout the Christian world. In our abstract, we shall endeavour so to select and arrange the leading facts, as to exhibit the state and progress of the various Institutions, with perspicuity and precision.

The Committee, in the introduction, allude to the late tour of one of their secretaries, the Rev. Dr. Steinkopff, through France, Switzerland, and Germany. They remark, that "a compressed account of his observations and labours will be found in the Appendix;" and to this account they "refer for many interesting particulars, omitted in the body of the Report." A Summary of this statement, we shall endeavour to prepare for a future number.

FRANCE.

Protestant Bible Society of Paris, and its Auxiliaries.

The expectations encouraged in France, by the events of the two preceding years, have been amply justified; and that country exhibits at this moment a spectacle in which the lovers of Biblical truth may find abundant matter for joy and thanksgiving.

From the second Report of the Protestant Bible Society of Paris, a document which is entitled to the highest respect and attention, it appears that the Committee of that Society, under the guidance of their indefatigable President and Chairman, the Marquis de Jaucourt, have evinced the greatest activity, prudence, and integrity in discharging the duties of their appointment.

Among the friends and benefactors of the Paris Bible Society, it is pleasing to observe the first authorities in the State associated with persons from the lowest classes in society. The sentiments with which the Duke de Cazes, when President of the Council and Minister of the Interior, accompanied his munificent donation, greatly enhanced the value of the gift.

"I have seen with the greatest interest," says the Duke, "in the representation of the labours of the Society, the proof of the good which it has already done, and the pledge of that which it will certainly effect hereafter. Happy to associate myself with its efforts for the attainment of an end towards which all Christian communions ought equally to direct their steps, I beg the Society to accept a subscription of 1,000 francs."

And his Excellency concluded, by authorizing the publication of his resolution,—"because that, in the eyes of all the true friends of morality and religion, it cannot but appear worthy of the Government to contribute to the dissemination of a book, which is the code of the sublimest religion, and of the purest morality."

The distribution of the Scriptures has been effected as speedily and extensively as the delays in procuring copies in a condition to be put into circulation would allow. Desirous of facilitating this object, your committee ceded to the Paris Bible Society, at cost price, the 10,000 Bibles and 5000 Testaments, printed on your account at Toulouse, and added 2,500 copies of a pocket Bible, printed on the same account at Paris. The accumulation of demands upon the Paris depository, and the insufficiency of the funds adequately to supply them, induced your committee to assist this active Society with an additional grant of 500*l*.

The Auxiliary Societies of *Milhau*, *Toulouse*, *Bordeaux*, *La Rochelle*, and *Deux Sevres*, are described as pursuing their labours with zeal and effect. The Society of *Montauban*, after existing for a considerable time as an independent institution, and printing a 4to. edition of the Bible, to the amount of 6,000 copies, has united itself, as an Auxiliary, to that of Paris. A new Auxiliary has been formed at *Montbeliard*, and still more recently one at *Saverdun*; of the former it should be said, in the language of the Report, that, "after an existence of a few months, it has already united to itself nearly 1,000 members, who enrich it with their gifts, who

within and without consecrate to it the most active co-operation, and who have given to it from its infancy the consistency and the vigour of an old institution confirmed by long success." The Societies of *Strasbourg, Colmar, and Nismes*, though not affiliated with that of Paris, are recognized by it with affectionate kindness, and regarded as united in spirit, in principle, and in mutual co-operation. In the distribution of copies of the Scriptures, regard has been had to hulks, prisons, infirmaries, and schools.

In relation to the French Catholics, the Committee thus remark—

To the Catholics of France, as the Paris Bible Society is precluded by its constitution from interfering with them, your committee have been, and continue to be increasingly attentive. From the applications which have reached them through various respectable channels, they have been enabled to distribute, in the course of the last year, 10,000 copies of De Sacy's New Testament, in 12mo besides several thousand copies of the large 8vo. edition, purchased of Mr. Leo. A beautiful 8vo. Bible of the same version, has just left the press, and is greatly in demand. The New Testament has also been recently stereotyped upon a large letter, and a considerable edition printed. The entire Bible is likewise preparing in stereotype, by means of which your committee will be enabled to procure the Catholic Scriptures, on very reasonable terms. Your committee may add, that the taste for Biblical literature has increased so much among the Catholics of France, that a version of the Bible from the original Hebrew and Greek, with the Latin Vulgate at the bottom of the page, is now in the course of publication, and meets with very considerable encouragement.

The favourable disposition, in regard to the circulation of the Bible, manifested by the

leading members of the French Government, and particularly by the Duke de Cazes, is again adverted to, in the following paragraph :—

Your committee cannot take leave of France, without renewing the expression of the Society's obligations to leading members in the Government of that country. The prohibition against importing books through certain ports, was, on application to the Minister of the Interior, most condescendingly relaxed in favour of a stock of Bibles and Testaments, in various languages, which your committee had occasion to transmit to Certe and Port Vendre ; and his Excellency the Duke de Cazes was also pleased to accommodate the Society, by being himself (on his late return to Paris,) the bearer of the New Testament, in Carshun, from which an edition is to be printed for your Society, at the Royal printing-office, under the direction of Baron de Sacy ; and of which, the well known Oriental scholar, Professor Quatremere, has voluntarily offered to become the gratuitous editor.

UNITED NETHERLANDS.

The *United Netherlands' Bible Society*, in the Report of its sixth year's proceedings, exhibits very satisfactory evidences of a growing interest in the cause of the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures.

The collective contributions from the several Provincial Societies have exceeded those of the former year by the sum of 10,000 guilders.

Among the fifty Societies of this description, composing together the *National Institution*, those of the Hague, Utrecht, and Gauda, have more than doubled their contributions of the preceding year ; and those of Amsterdam, Groningen, Schiedam, Hellegondsberg, de Zype, Vianen, and Minden, have been considerably increased. Of the rest, nearly all have kept their ground ; and some of them under {circumstan-

ces of peculiar difficulty and discouragement.

The *Amsterdam Society* has amply supplied seminaries, prisons, houses of correction, and hospitals, as well as barracks, with copies of the Scriptures; and its Bible Associations have been found eminently useful.

Your committee observe with particular pleasure, the attention which the United Netherlands' Society pays to the use of the Bible in schools. The practice of reading the Bible in these establishments of popular education has thus been promoted to a vast extent: in some places it has been determined that the schoolmaster should fix a certain time at which either himself should read that holy book to the children, or he should appoint one of the best readers to do so; and mention is made of a schoolmaster at Vere, who actually resigned his situation, because he was not allowed to read the Bible in the school.

A Marine Bible Society has been formed, of which retired captains of pious character have been chosen the directors. This Auxiliary has commenced its operations with great activity, and has already distributed copies of the Scriptures in the various European languages, among the shipping in the several harbours.

Of the Catholics of the United Netherlands, the Report says—

The Catholic population of the United Netherlands have also continued to receive copies of the word of God in their respective versions. The Archbishop of Malines has granted permission to an individual to publish a new translation of the Testament into Flemish, without note or comment, for the use of the Flemish Catholics. An edition of the Testament in Dutch, for the use of the Catholics speaking that language, has also been printed from an authorized version; and is now in circulation. Of the Malay Bible in the Arabic character, the New Testament

portion has been finished in a manner highly creditable to the Society: the Old Testament is already in an advanced state.

The Central Committee at Amsterdam have presented to Professor Van Ess, in addition to their former donations, the sum of 2000 gilders, in aid of the distribution of his Catholic New Testaments. They also continue to publish extracts of correspondence periodically to the number of 10,000 copies. In relation to their foreign operations, the Report before us thus observes—

The *Java Bible Society* (originally connected with your Institution) has remitted to the Central Society a liberal contribution; and, with the change of its designation to that of *The East India Bible Society*, it has announced its intention of carrying its exertions, in proportion as its means may enable it throughout the whole of Austral-Asia. A version of the New Testament in the Javanese has been undertaken at Samarang, of which the Four Gospels are already translated, and the remainder is in progress.

SWITZERLAND.

The Societies enumerated in former Reports, (most of which were visited by Dr. Steinkopff in the course of his tour,) continue to evince their attachment to the cause in which they are embarked, and some addition has been made to their number.

The *Basle Society*, encouraged and strengthened by an accession of local support and influence, proceeds in printing the Scriptures with unabated assiduity and disinterestedness. A stock of Catholic Scriptures is kept in the Basle depository, whence they are distributed throughout the Catholic cantons of Switzerland.

The activity of the friends of the Bible in *Schaffhausen*, has been stimulated

by the increase of applications for the word of God.

Of the state of the *Zurich* Bible Society your Committee cannot give a more exact or gratifying account, than by quoting the address with which Antistes Hess, its President, greeted the appearance of the representative of your Society.

"I rejoice and thank God," said this venerable ecclesiastic, "to behold, for the third time, a representative of the Parent Society entering our friendly circle, and animating our hearts by the cheering intelligence of the diffusion of the word of life. I bid you welcome in the name of our blessed Lord and Master; and am happy to have it in my power to inform you, that our Institution, though comparatively small and limited, has yet evidently experienced the blessing of God. So far from suffering any decline, it has rather to rejoice in an increase of members and contributors; and we have found the demand for the Scriptures increasing to such a degree, that we have determined to undertake a new edition of 7,500 copies of our authorized Bible."

The visit of Dr. Steinkopff to *Winterthur* proved very encouraging to the Bible Society recently established in that town: a similar Institution has been formed for the district of *Toggenburg*. Another is said to be now organizing in the canton of *Thurgau*: when this establishment shall have been effected, there will then be a Bible Society in every one of the Protestant cantons.

The *Glarus* Society has had to contend with various difficulties, of which not the least has been the extreme penury of the inhabitants. The following anecdote will show how greatly a Bible Society was wanted among the Protestant inhabitants of this canton:

"Two poor families had received a legacy, of which a Bible formed a part. Neither would resign the right to this invaluable treasure: they therefore came to an agreement, to use it alternately for half a year each. This prac-

tice was observed for several years; at the expiration of every half year, the Bible passed from one family to the other; till, on the establishment of a Bible Society, another copy of the Bible was presented to one of the families, and both were thus happily accommodated."

In the *St. Gall* Society, the business both of printing and distributing the Scriptures is carried on with steadiness and good effect. A new edition of the Protestant Testament is going through the press; and copies of the Catholic Scriptures are circulating from this Society's depository, through the hands of enlightened priests of that communion, whose number and activity appear to have been increased, rather than diminished, by the prohibitions issued from their ecclesiastical superiors, against the free circulation of the Scriptures in the vernacular tongue.

The *Grisons* Society at *CHUR* has likewise received a new impulse, and much increase of exertion and usefulness may be anticipated from the zeal so happily kindled in that town and its vicinity.

But in no part of Switzerland has the cause of the Bible Society made a more decided progress, than in the town and canton of *Bern*. Associations for distributing the Holy Scriptures multiply; contributions both to them and to the Central Society increase; and persons of both sexes, and of every condition, evince a degree of pious interest in this benevolent work.

Lausanne, *Neufchatel*, and *Geneva*, continue to take their respective shares in the common work. The presses of *Basle* have furnished Bibles and Testaments, for present distribution, not only in these cantons, but also among the distressed Waldenses, in *Piedmont*; by means of these supplies, the Bible Association at *Lausanne* have continued to dispense the word of God to students, catechumens, and others, who were likely to make a proper use of it.

The Society at *GENEVA* is entitled to particular commendation, for its perse-

verance in translating your Monthly Extracts of Correspondence, and for the regularity with which it causes them to be printed and dispersed, wherever they are capable of being circulated with acceptance and advantage.

From the Fourth Report of this Society, your Committee have great pleasure in extracting the following particulars :—

“Our public establishments are abundantly provided with Bibles: they have penetrated into the receptacles of crime: the subjects of guilt and wretchedness have experienced the influence of the consolations and the warnings of the Divine voice, even to the lowest cells. Already even a voluntary contribution has proceeded from the bosom of the prisons of this city; and the Committee, in receiving this offering, saw in it a source of encouragement still greater than in more enlarged contributions.”

GERMANY.

Forty-nine Bible Societies in Germany were visited by the Rev. Dr. Steinkopff, during his late tour to the Continent; and nine of the number were formed under his immediate superintendence. Respecting some of the most important of the German Societies, we select from the Report, the following information :—

In the *Kingdom of Wurtemberg* the hearts of the sovereign and the people appear to be united, as the heart of one man, in the work of disseminating the Holy Scriptures. More than forty Auxiliaries and Associations (among which, that for the University of Tuebingen, occupies a prominent station,) co-operate with the central administration at Stuttgart; in which capital not only the twenty-two corporations of tradesmen have come forward with their respective offerings, but individuals of all classes, emulating the zeal of their

Royal Patrons, have espoused the cause with the warmest affection, and aided it with the most liberal contributions. Thus patronised and supported, the Wurtemberg Society has, since the period of its formation, distributed 45,000 Bibles and Testaments; while more than 10,000 copies have flowed, within the same time, from its active presses into neighbouring Kingdoms and States. Its income last year exceeded 32,000 florins, and its expenditure 40,000 florins. The accounts which will appear in the Appendix, of the interviews with which your Secretary was honoured by the King, the Queen, the Queen Dowager, the Dutchess Louisa, mother of the reigning Queen, &c. will be read with much satisfaction: and they will be found to lend the strongest confirmation to the testimony which your Committee have borne, to the interest taken by the highest as well as the lowest classes, in the prosperity of the Wurtemberg Institution.

The Society of the Grand Duchy of *Baden*, was found by your Secretary to be in a prosperous condition; it has lately been joined by the town and University of Heidelberg, which promises to constitute one of its most zealous and effective Auxiliaries.

Constance, deprived, by death, of its venerable Pro-Vicar Reininger, is not destitute of an ecclesiastic of the same enlightened principles, and of equal attachment to the dissemination of the Holy Scriptures. The work of distribution, therefore, continues to go forward in this Catholic station.

In the Society of *Hesse Darmstadt*, His Serene Highness Prince Christian, continues to evince a paternal anxiety for communicating the Holy Scriptures to the poor in the dominions of his illustrious relative. The Societies of *Worms*, *Michaelstadt*, and *Giessen*, within the same Duchy, are also conducted by persons who are equally zealous in the cause which they have espoused, and qualified to promote its success.

At *Hanau*, the Society, though strug-

gling with difficulties, laudably maintains its ground.

The Society at *Frankfort*, though not yet enjoying the general support of that city, is manifestly on the increase. How vigorously it has exerted itself, appears from the fact of its having distributed, since its establishment, 22,970 Bibles and Testaments, of which latter more than 7000 were circulated among Catholics.

At *Hesse Homburg*, your Secretary had an interview with his Serene Highness the Landgrave, and his Royal Consort, Princess Elizabeth of England, who severally expressed the satisfaction they felt in the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures through the operations of Bible Societies.

Marburg, the residence of the indefatigable Leander Van Ess, has likewise become the seat of an active Bible Society. Your Secretary, who was present at the First Anniversary of this Institution, was particularly gratified by the interest which the Professors of the University took in this excellent cause, and by the cordiality with which Protestants and Catholics coalesced in its prosecution and support.

A fresh impulse has recently been given to the exertions of the *Hesse Cassel* Society. In an interview with which the late Elector honoured your Secretary, his Serene Highness spoke of the Bible in such terms of attachment, as to encourage a hope, that, in the closing scene of life, he was supported by its promises and solaced by its consolations.

In the sequestered city of Arolsen, the centre of the *Waldeck* and *Pyrmont* Bible Society, a very zealous committee continue to exert themselves to furnish the poor inhabitants of this barren territory with the means of obtaining a title to a better inheritance.

It was the tender solicitude of Professor Leander Van Ess for these indigent but grateful subjects of your Society's bounty, that induced your Secretary to turn out of his way, in

order to visit the committee of their institution. "The Road," said the Professor, "is bad, and the land poor; but the people are worthy, and the friends of the Bible Society active." The result of your Secretary's visit fully justified the advice under which he had been led to make it.

The following statement of the Vice President of the *Eisenach* Society, formed for the Grand Duchy of that name, is important:—

"Our Society has always found, that when the want of the Scriptures has been supplied in one quarter of our country, it presents itself in another. Indeed we did not suppose so great a want of the Scriptures to exist in a country which is situated in the centre of Germany, where there is the best opportunity of procuring copies at moderate prices, and in a town where, at the time when our printing presses were in a flourishing condition, several impressions of the Scriptures were published. But this only serves to prove the advantages that result from the institution of Bible Societies, which lead to the discovery of the want of the greatest treasure, and open a way for its relief."

Both the Grand Duke and the Grand Duchess of *Weimar*, are taking a lively interest in the prosperity of the Society established for the benefit of their dominions.

In the *States of Bavaria*, a misconception of the design and tendency of Bible Societies has precluded, in a great measure, the inhabitants of that kingdom from the blessings which have uniformly attended the operations of those peaceful and beneficent institutions. The *Nuremberg* Bible Society, which was suppressed by an order of government, has not yet been permitted to resume its functions: but its friends in that city are numerous; and their prayers, which ascend for the establishment of the Society, will, we trust, not eventually have been offered in vain.

In the meantime, the exertions of the Catholics have been employed amidst all the difficulties which were opposed to them, with extraordinary activity and success. Bavaria has been the centre from which have issued three Catholic versions of the New Testament, which have been widely diffused through most of the contiguous countries. From the press of Mr. Seidel, at Sulzbach, have proceeded more than 350,000 copies of the version of Leander Van Ess; nearly 80,000 of Gosner's have been printed at Munich; and more than 60,000 of Wittman's at Ratisbon. But, your Committee cannot dismiss the consideration of this country, without doing justice to an humble servant maid, late of the city of Nuremberg, who, having heard her master, the city librarian, speak of the labours and usefulness of your Society, was so affected by the narrative, that she bequeathed to it a legacy of 10*l*.

In the *Kingdom of Saxony*, the object of your Institution may now be said to have received the homage of the whole nation. On the suggestion of your Secretary, a collection has been made in behalf of the Saxon Bible Society in all the churches throughout the kingdom, and the result has added a very considerable sum to its funds. The *Leipzig* Committee are likely to find great scope for their labours among the Jews, who, in great numbers, frequent the annual fairs in that city, and who have lately become eager for copies of the Hebrew New Testament. The *Herrnhut* Branch, also, is particularly active and successful, both among Protestants and Catholics. Of the good effect which the very existence of Bible Societies produces on the minds of the lower classes, the following anecdote related by Mr. Fabricius, affords a pleasing illustration:—

A peasant having asked Mr. Fabricius how he could afford to sell Bibles so cheap, the latter replied, by giving him an account of the rise and progress of Bible Societies. "What! have I lived to see this!" exclaimed the pea-

sant; "I thought the whole world was like our village, where no one cares for another, unless he can gain something by him: but, now I find there are many true Christians, who give their money, that we may read the word of God."

In the northern States of Germany, the Societies noticed in former Reports, appear to be proceeding in the execution of their respective duties, and reaping, in various degrees, the fruits of their past exertions.

The Hanoverian Bible Society (under the patronage of his Royal Highness the Duke of Cambridge,) reports, that constant applications for Bibles and Testaments have been made to it, and are still making, from every province of the kingdom, by the parochial clergy and superintendents: besides which, no inconsiderable number of Bibles and Testaments have been placed in the prisons and houses of correction. The whole amount of its issues, to the end of its fifth year, has been 15,027 copies of the Scriptures. It has Auxiliaries in *Aurich, Celle, Goettingen, Goslar, Harburg, Hildersheim, Lueneburg, Osnaburg, Stade, and Zellerfeld*; and smaller Bible Associations in the districts of *Uelzen, Luechow, Jeinsen, Hoenstein, Seelze, Hohnstedt, Boerry, Luene, Bardewiek, Nienburg, Fallersleben, Uslar*, and several other places.

The *Hambro Altona* Society is actively employed; and has extended its powers of usefulness, by the acquisition of a new and promising Auxiliary for *Ritzbuettel*, and *Cuxhaven*. From the numerous vessels that visit the port of Cuxhaven, and the travellers of different nations who are continually passing and repassing by means of the packets. This Auxiliary is likely to have very full and useful employment.

The Bible Society at *Bremen* continues active, and extends its benevolent exertions to several villages of the neighbouring States. It has distributed since its establishment upwards of 3,000 Bibles and Testaments.

The *Rostock* Society has had the satis-

faction of distributing, in its fourth year, a larger number of Bibles and Testaments, than in any preceding year; and, what has increased the satisfaction, is, that "all these Bibles have," in the language of the Report, "been anxiously desired and earnestly solicited."

The *Lauenburg-Ratzeburg* Society has also acquired a considerable increase of energy and support. At its Second Anniversary, which was held in the ancient cathedral of the town, that venerable edifice was filled with persons of every rank and condition. "It was," observes the Secretary, "a season of peculiar solemnity, and has, doubtless, left such an impression, as, by Divine grace, will not speedily be effaced."

PRUSSIA.

The sixth Anniversary of the Prussian Bible Society was held at Berlin on the 13th of September, 1820. It then had thirty-eight Auxiliaries; and had distributed, in the course of the year, 40,000 Bibles and Testaments. After stating these facts more at large, the Report proceeds as follows—

In the mean time, works are going forward of great importance, under the direction of the Central Committee; some have been completed, and others are in a course of preparation. An edition of 5,000 copies of the Polish Testament, according to Wuyk's translation, has just been executed by the *Posen* Auxiliary, for the use of the Catholics in Poland. An impression of 3,000 copies of the Wendish Bible, in the dialect of Cottbus, and as many New Testaments, with the Wendish and German in parallel columns, is considerably advanced. A stereotype German Bible can be worked off at any time, from plates in the possession of the Committee. The Societies at *Koenigsberg* and *Gumbinnen* are proceeding with the printing and distribution of the Lithuanian, Polish, and German Scriptures.

A new Auxiliary has been formed at *Marienwerder*, which promises to embrace a considerable extent of territory in West Prussia. Communications have also been kept up by your Committee with the Societies of *Memel*, *Dantzic*, *Pomerania* and *Ruegen*, *Minder*, *Buntz-lau*, and *Breslau*. The last of these has been particularly active in propagating the Scriptures, among the Catholics, and Hebrew New Testaments among the Jews.

The Bible Society at *Goerlitz* has been very attentive to the Wendish inhabitants of that city, and has been assisted in its exertions, for the German part of its population, with a grant of 300 Bibles, through the Central Committee at Berlin.

"The *Cologne* Bible Society has been gladdened with contributions to a considerable amount from very indigent congregations: even children, grateful for the instructions of the word of God have cheerfully presented their little offerings. Several soldiers, also, having applied for Bibles, had them offered at a reduced price, which they paid; and presented, besides, a dollar out of their small stock of money: observing, that the word of God could not be paid for at any price."

"The Society in *Buchwald* states, with the warmest gratitude, that the demand for the Holy Scriptures among the Catholics still continues, and is plentifully supplied."

The Committee at *Liegnitz* give the following interesting statement:—

"Notwithstanding the present hardship of the times, (the consequence of a ruinous war,) a greater number of churches, schools, and other pious foundations, are now endowed than were formerly. It now more frequently occurs, that congregations raise contributions among their members, for repairing or beautifying their churches, and for the improvement of their public worship, and of the schools in their respective parishes."

This flourishing state of the Bible

Societies throughout his dominions appears to have made a deep impression on the mind of his Prussian Majesty. Sympathizing with his subjects in the joy expressed on occasion of this triumphant completion of the sixth year of the National Bible Society, his Majesty thus emphatically declares his continued attachment to the cause, and his unalterable determination to support it:—

“The recollection of the epoch of the commencement of this good work will always remain as dear to my mind, as the sublime object of distributing the Holy Scriptures, which that Society has in view; an object which may depend upon my continued sanction and support.”

In closing the article of Germany and Prussia, your Committee will annex the remarks of the Rev. T. Blumhardt, of Basle, (who accompanied Dr. Steinkopff in his tour,) on the state of those countries, as it respects the Holy Scriptures:—

“Within these few years, the Bible cause appears to have taken deep root in the hearts of our German brethren; the circle of its influence has been greatly extended, and more firmly established than it was on my accompanying Dr. Pinkerton on his tour, two years ago.

“In many places this improvement is very visible; and by the blessing of God, such fruits have appeared as have filled our hearts with joy and gratitude: and we trust, that the Continental Bible Societies will be the means of raising up many friends to the Scriptures, and of opening new channels for the communication of the Gospel of God our Saviour to the hearts of those among our brethren, who have a name to live but are dead.

“No less obvious and alarming are the rapid strides of infidelity towards its final object. The lovers of light and darkness have arrived much nearer that crisis of the contest which shall separate the adherents of the one from those of the other. The effects of the

prevailing spirit of the times, unbelief and superstition, have increased in equal proportion with those of the humble exertions of the followers of Jesus Christ, who love His appearing, and join hand in hand to promote the coming of His kingdom.”

DENMARK.

The two leading Bible Societies, the one at COPENHAGEN for the Danish, and the other at SLESWIG for the German population of the kingdom, have not only maintained their ground during the past year, without foreign aid, but also made very considerable progress in the acquisition of support, and in the extension of their useful labours. In no part of the vast Biblical field does the eye of the Christian philanthropist repose with more grateful satisfaction than in the circle of the Danish dominions. Denmark, though coming much later than the contiguous countries into the confederacy for dispersing the oracles of truth, is at this moment, not exceeded, in point of activity, and effective organization, by any of the most advanced of the Continental Bible Societies. “Six years,” said the King’s Chaplain, in his address at the Anniversary of the Danish Bible Society, “six years have now elapsed since the first stone was laid of the fabric of the Danish Bible Society. We all knew the object we had in view. To all of us here assembled, Christian faith and the knowledge of Christian truth are subjects of the highest, and the most sacred concern. We saw with mournful apprehension the danger which threatened to deprive us of that treasure. We consider it a mercy from God, that means had been discovered and employed to recover, maintain, and secure it. We have thus reason greatly to rejoice in the arrival of this day, which in a solemn manner recalls to our mind the institution of Bible Societies in general, and of the Danish Bible Society in particular.”

In the course of its sixth year, the Danish Bible Society has issued 11,320

Bibles and Testaments. In the distribution which has been made of these copies, hospitals, schools, and indigent individuals, have liberally partaken.

It has ten Auxiliaries in the Island of Zealand, five of which have been established in the course of the last year. A *Marine Bible Society* has also been formed.

In the whole conduct of the Danish Society's operations, both Central and Provincial, the Bishops and Parochial clergy appear to take that share of superintendence and active exertion which corresponds with their spiritual functions; and this circumstance accounts, in a great measure, for the success with which the general undertaking has been attended.

Of the other Society in Denmark, that of *Sleswig-Holstein*, the fourth Report announces a degree of progress which amply justifies the strong language of commendation in which its zeal and activity have been spoken of upon former occasions.

Its patronage has been strengthened by the accession of his Serene Highness Prince Frederick of Hesse Cassel, commander of the Forces; its Auxiliaries have been increased to 118; and the number of copies distributed since its formation is computed at 20,000. "Of these," observes the Report, "2715 Bibles and Testaments were distributed, not only in the neighbouring territories of Germany, but even in North America: so that thus the distant nations, which are divided from us by the ocean, are united with us by the same hope of eternal life, derived from the same source—the word of God."

SWEDEN.

The *Swedish Bible Society* at Stockholm, with its Auxiliaries and Associations, continues to advance in the course marked out for it, by the concurrent exertions of its committee and their fellow-labourers in every part of the kingdom.

"Five years," observes its last Report, "have now elapsed since the labours of the Swedish Bible Society commenced. The favour and blessing of Almighty God have attended the daily exertions of its conductors; they have accordingly with every new day had fresh reason to praise his Holy name; and, at the termination of every year, they have had fresh and encouraging evidence of the Divine favour, and a pleasing assurance that they have all along been moving forward in a direct path towards the attainment of the object of their solicitude—a general distribution of the word of God among the inhabitants of their native land."

Among the Auxiliaries, which, increasing from year to year, now cover very nearly the whole face of the country, that of *Lund* claims a more especial commemoration. "The talent and zeal," says the Report, "which have so eminently distinguished the Bible Society for the University and Diocese of *Lund*, from the commencement, have shone with increased lustre during the past year. In many parishes, almost every father of a family has put down his name as a subscriber for a quarto Bible. The Committee have passed a generous resolution to offer a sum of money from their own private means, as a loan towards the publication of our quarto edition; and have sent it in advance to your Committee, in order to strengthen our hands in this important work. They have sold a greater number of Bibles and Testaments, and made a larger gratuitous distribution this year than they had ever done. They have also made arrangements in every port and place where vessels touch or navigate, so that the seamen frequenting them may be supplied with the word of life. Some of the parishes have formed Associations, to make annual purchases of New Testaments, for distribution among their youth on all proper occasions, especially on their first receiving the Lord's Supper. Other parishes

present a Bible to every new married couple; and, on the baptism of every child, they give the parents one for its future use. One parish alone has already distributed 600 Bibles. Their ministers take the utmost pains to uphold and direct this awakened desire for the Scriptures: there seems, indeed, to be a promise of harvest upon harvest for the kingdom of God in that diocese."

The Society at *Westeras* has supplied 4848 families out of 10,000, which had appeared to be destitute of a Bible or Testament.

The *Carlstadt* Society has a large sphere of operation: it appearing that there are, in that diocese, 14,000 families without a Bible, of which nearly one third are unable to pay any thing whatever for a copy.

The *Hernosand*, *Wisby*, *Nericke*, *Sheps-holm*, and *Carlsrona* Societies are going on well. The committees in the different dioceses have "had the consolation to find that the people's minds were powerfully led to desire the precious word of God. The poor come in large numbers with their pence, and offer to become purchasers of the sacred treasure."

Your committee have remarked with peculiar satisfaction the increased attention excited by the Marine, and the Ladies' Bible Associations. Of the latter, that at Stockholm (of which the Countess of Lowenhielm is President, and the Countess of Schwerin Secretary) has been already productive of very beneficial effects.

Of the *Golthenburg* Bible Society, your Committee have had the satisfaction to learn from the Bishop, its President, that neither its zeal nor its usefulness has in any measure declined. The following extract from a letter of that pious and learned prelate will confirm what your committee have thus generally stated:—

"The word of God, which is now translated, sold, or given away, is likewise, we trust, very diligently read. I have myself seen, in one of our church-

es, a table placed near to the altar, around which, after divine service, young people take their stand, in order to read, in the presence of the whole congregation, a chapter from the Bible, with a loud and distinct voice. In other places, the parishioners attend their pastor, to hear a portion of the Scriptures read, and afterwards explained; but what may be considered the chief point is, that the oracles of God are consulted in the domestic circle. Even the dark cells of the prison, rarely visited by the rays of the sun, are illumined by a bright light from above. Not without admiring that God, who is wonderful in council and mighty in working, have I heard the aged prisoners instructing their younger companions to read: the latter thus learn the sacred precepts of the Bible, and wean themselves from their former course of life. When they go out to labour on the public works, the sacred book is often their companion, with which they most profitably and pleasantly beguile the leisure hours conceded to them. Thus while their bodies, pressed down under the weight of heavy chains, are allowed some refreshment, their minds aspire to things above, even to that blessed Redeemer who alone can make them free indeed."

NORWAY.

The *Norwegian* Bible Society, originally combining the circulation of the Scriptures, with other religious objects, has been re-organized so as to make the circulation of the Scriptures its exclusive object. A copy of its printed rules, together with a specimen of an edition of the New Testament, printed under its direction at Christiania, has been transmitted to your Committee; and the condition on which your grant of 500*l.* was tendered, having thus been fulfilled, the money has accordingly been paid. The *Stavanger* Society has found in the 500 Bibles furnished by your society, as mentioned in the last

Report, a stock for very seasonable distribution in the parts of Norway to which its operations are confined. The greater number of the copies were paid for at a considerable price by the willing purchasers in the town of Stavanger, with a view to a greater reduction of it in favour of the more needy inhabitants of the surrounding country. In this manner a fund of 350 specie dollars was collected from the produce of 316 Bibles: and the sum thus providently raised was invested in the purchase of fresh supplies.

An extract from the affectionate letter of the Committee of the Norwegian Society may properly conclude this article:

“The end which our Society has in view, is so important, that we cannot allow ourselves to relax in our exertions, or to cast away our confidence. By the Divine assistance we shall cheerfully go on, though we should be left to labour alone, and unsupported. It is, however, a source of real pleasure, to find that other Societies give us the right hand of fellowship, and joining in closer connexion with us, add their efforts to our’s for the promotion of the common cause. Considered in this light, the gift of the honoured Parent Society is doubly valuable; and, we can truly say, it has been received in the same spirit of brotherly affection in which it was bestowed.

“May the Most High still condescend to bless our united endeavours! May he grant that His word be preserved among us pure and unadulterated to the end of time; and may the unwearied activity of your Society, of which the happy fruits become daily more evident, be attended with His Divine benediction!”

RUSSIA.

In tracing the progress of the Holy Scriptures, through the medium of Bible Societies, over the *Russian* empire, your Committee find occasion for renewed gratitude to God on account of

the energy and perseverance increasingly manifested by their Russian brethren, and the triumph granted through their instrumentality to the course and the influence of the word of God.

The emperor continues not only to patronise the *Russian Bible Society*, but also to co-operate by his personal exertions with those who have the practical administrations of its concerns. Of this a splendid instance may be cited, in his having purchased a large stock, more than 9000 Slavonian pocket Testaments, from his own private funds, in order to distribute them among the army. Nor does it redound less to the credit of his wisdom, and his solicitude for the diffusion among his people of Scriptural truth, that his Imperial Majesty issued an order to the Holy Synod, to supply all the monasteries, churches, and priests, throughout his dominions, with copies of the Holy Scriptures.

His Excellency Prince Galitzin, also, the active President of the Russian Society, assisted by the Metropolitans of the different religious communions, and other personages of the first consideration in the empire, follows up with indefatigable diligence those labours of superintendence and direction, from which the institution has reaped such important advantages.

In the Central Society at *St. Petersburg*, its principal Auxiliary at *Moscow*, and its Auxiliaries and Associates in general, throughout the several governments, provinces, and dependencies of the empire, the work appears to be going forward, having been stimulated, in the course of the last year, by the infusion of a new energy, and by improved arrangements for its execution and accomplishment.

The anniversaries of both the Central Society at *St. Petersburg* and of its *Moscow* Auxiliary were celebrated with the customary solemnities, and with even more than their usual effect. On the occasion of that at *Moscow*, more than 1200 persons were present; among

whom were the new Governor General, and the new Metropolitan, Seraaphim; with their respective attendants. In the primary address of this distinguished prelate, much will be found of the deepest interest to every genuine lover of the pure word of God. Adverting to the confined use of the sacred writings in past times, from their having been left in the hands of the clergy, as a something with which *they* only had a concern, the Metropolitan thus remarks:—

“ Out of this state of things a mighty evil arose; ignorance of the law of God, the only effectual restraint of the corrupt passions of men. No sooner was this thrown aside than men became ungovernable. In every direction the passions of men have raged with fury, and have filled cities and peaceful villages with falsehood, deceit, oppression, bribery, corruption, and every species of wickedness. But, when this iniquity began to abound, and to threaten the existence of all social order and happiness, a gracious God was pleased to raise up the Bible Society, whose sole object is the increase and circulation of the books of Holy Writ, with a view to re-establish and extend the knowledge of the pure and holy law of God, which is the only right guide of our actions; by this distinguished intervention of Providence, God has placed a strong barrier to this evil, and laid a stable foundation for the building up of the true faith and genuine piety even unto the ends of the earth.”

The version of the Scriptures in modern Russ, the most important undertaking of the Russian Bible Society, and which originated in the suggestion of the Emperor himself, is now proceeding with an accelerated pace. While the translation of the whole Bible is going on, 50,000 copies of the Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles, in this vernacular Russian dialect and the Slavonian, in parallel columns, have been committed to the press, and a large proportion of them have obtain-

ed a very acceptable circulation. Referring to this version, his Excellency the President says—“ The Crimean Tartars, the Calmucs, the Tschuwashians, the Tscheremissians, the Mordwashians, the Karelians, &c. to the most distant inhabitants of the borders of the White Sea, all begin to read in their own languages and dialects the word of truth, the gospel of Jesus Christ.”

The number of Auxiliary Societies, in July, 1820, amounted to 196; since that period the number has increased; and among those more recently formed should be mentioned that of *Kiachta*, the chief frontier town and mart of commerce between China and Russia; and that of *Nertchinsk*, another town on the borders of China, famous for its silver mines; which are wrought by the exiled criminals from the interior of the empire. Both these are in connexion with the Society at *Irkutsk*, and both were formed through the influence of the Governor-General of that province, who is unwearied in his labours to further the object of the Russian Bible Society.

It were impracticable for your Committee to exhibit in detail the proceedings of a Society which comprehends such an extent of territory, and labours to provide for such a varied and wide-spreading population. Much, however, of what is necessarily suppressed, will be inferred from the extraordinary fact, that, within the short period of seven years, the Russian Bible Society had either actually printed, or was engaged to print, ninety-one editions of the whole or parts of the Sacred Scriptures, in twenty-six different languages; forming a total of 411,000 copies: that of these, 275,669 are already in circulation: and that the number circulated in the course of the seventh year, in thirty-two languages, amounted to 68,539. Well, therefore, might the President assert—“ At present, there is hardly a province in the empire where the cause of disseminating the Holy Scriptures is not known. From the shores of the Baltic to *Kiachta* they are

circulated by various means. Copies of them have reached the distant habitations of the Buriats, and the still more distant inhabitants of the shores of Russian North America. On the other hand, the Kirgisians and Persians are supplied with them; the natives around the Caspian and Black Seas are partaking of them: the Georgians and Bessarabians are furnished with these silent preachers of salvation."

Your Committee will terminate their abstract of the Russian Bible Society's proceedings of the present year, with the simple expression of congenial sentiments on the part of some peasants, in a letter which accompanied their united contribution:—

"We humbly beg the generous Committee of the Russian Bible Society to send, with the receipt, copies of their Report for 1818, and a few addresses on the progress and design of the Society. By reading these, people are roused from a deep sleep, are filled with zeal for the holy cause, and bring their contributions to support it. Even poor widows and orphans give their mites. Fathers of families write down the names of their children of three and four years old as members, and bring the money from their earnings. Thus encouraging each other to peace, love, and good works, they serve God and the Emperor. How different is this from what it used to be! Our neighbours give up all their former ruinous and contemptible vanities, and take refuge in the word of God."

CATHOLIC DISTRIBUTION.

In this part of the Report, the Committee give a concise view of the circulation of the Scriptures among the Roman Catholics in Europe. From this view, we select the following passages, which will be perused with interest:—

It would have afforded your committee real satisfaction, to have been able to announce, that the opposition made

in certain parts of Europe to the circulation of the Holy Scriptures among the members of the Roman Catholic church, had given way to a kinder and more liberal feeling. They regret to say, that such has not been the case. It is, however, pleasing to observe, that, under all the circumstances of discouragement and counteraction, the word of God mightily grows and prevails. The Catholic distributors, for the most part, persevere in their truly Christian work, unintimidated by the threats, and unarrested by the prohibitions, of those of their spiritual superiors, who wish to uphold the spurious and unauthorized practice of interdicting to the laity the free use of the Holy Scriptures.

In Germany, in France, in Italy, in Spain, the thirst for Scriptural knowledge is making sensible progress; and your Committee have not been backward to avail themselves of the various opportunities to impart encouragement and assistance towards cherishing that auspicious feeling, and providing it with the means of suitable gratification. In the immaturity of those measures which respect the last-named country, your Committee forbear saying more than that they are of a nature to inspire hope; and that, if the issue should correspond with the course in which they have hitherto proceeded, they will lay a foundation for Establishments in Spain, from which both the Government and the people will derive the most solid and durable advantages.

Of the disposition among the Catholics in France to receive the Holy Scriptures, the symptoms and evidences are constantly on the increase. And your Committee will only add, to the statement already made on this subject, that after having purchased 65,000 copies, and distributed 45,000 of them, they find fresh demands in almost every direction, and receive fresh testimonies of the good effects with which the supplies are attended.

The retirement of Gosner from Ger-

many to Russia, has left Professor *Leander Van Ess* almost alone in that portion of the Biblical field. Armed with courage from on high, he abides the conflict, and fights the good fight with unabated resolution. The number of copies of the Scriptures which he has distributed, amounts to no fewer than 408,210, of which, nearly 400,000 were of the Catholic version. "The astonishing success, (observes his Committee of accounts, in their address to your Society,) with which the Lord has been pleased to attend the labours of this his valiant soldier, who has so nobly defended the cause of light against the powers of darkness, has filled our hearts with the warmest gratitude. With unwearied zeal he devotes all his energies to the diffusion of the Gospel of salvation, and by the strengthening influence of redeeming love, braves the storms which assail him, and remains firm as a rock in the midst of the ocean, continually buffeted by the raging waves."

MEDITERRANEAN.

In that department of your Society's labours which includes the ISLANDS of the MEDITERRANEAN, and the countries with which it is surrounded, much has been done in the course of the last year towards creating facilities, and organizing measures, for carrying the benevolent designs of your Society, very extensively, into effect.

The *Malta* Bible Society has acquired a consistency and importance highly favourable to those distant and complicated operations in which, from its central situation and commanding means of intercourse, it is likely to be engaged. Already, through its instrumentality, many thousands of Syriac, Arabic, Greek, and Hebrew New Testaments have been conveyed into Greece, and different parts of the Levant: Italian New Testaments have also been distributed by it in various directions; and, at its suggestion, pocket editions of the latter, and of the Modern Greek, as well

as an edition of the Psalms, in Latin and Italian, are preparing by your Committee, and by your Society's agent at Constantinople, the Rev. Henry Leeves.

The *Ionian* Bible Society at Corfu appears to have struck its roots, and may be expected in time to gratify the expectations which the respectability of its Patrons, and the zeal of its Directors and supporters, have excited, by yielding abundant fruits. The principal cause of the operations of the Ionian Society not having become more active, has been, the delay occasioned to the publication of Hilarion's Version of the Modern Greek Testament at Constantinople, by the scrupulous revision it is undergoing. In the mean time, however, it has not been idle; and two new Auxiliaries have been added to it, in Ithaca and Paxos. The state of the Society at the close of the first year may be generally inferred from the following extract from its Report:—

"The hopes of the founder of this Society were by no means disappointed. The Ionian Bible Society has received very considerable donations; the number of its members increased in proportion, as its establishment became known; its stability was greatly consolidated by the most Reverend the Ecumenical Patriarch Gregorio, as conspicuous for his virtues as he is distinguished for learning; and its labours, if they have not been very important during the first year for benefiting the neighbouring countries, have certainly been of great utility to the interior of the Ionian States."

At *Zante* and *Cephalonia* a similar expectation of the new version of the Modern Greek Testament prevails, as that which has been mentioned in reference to Corfu; a feeling indeed in which all Greece participates; and it is hoped that the appearance of that version will draw forth the dormant energies of the several Bible Societies, and engage them in the performance of those services by which they may become most important benefactors to the whole Greek nation.

In this work the *Athens' Society*, of which the Archbishop Dionysius has now accepted the Presidency, may be expected to take its full share; as the best disposition appears to actuate the Directors of the Society, and both the necessities and the desires of the people invite to a liberal distribution of the word of God among them. For this opinion your Committee have the following authority, in the words of the Vice-President and Secretary of the *Athens' Society*:—

“We have now the satisfaction of announcing to you, that our good Archbishop, Dionysius, has accepted the Presidency of our Society. The work of God goes forward, and does not fail to extend daily, not only in Attica, but in the Peloponnesus, Bœotia, and the neighbouring countries; so that we hope soon to be in want of many more copies of the Divine Book, to satisfy so many people, who are asking for it with eagerness.”

LEVANT.

In the *LEVANT*, the general business of the Society is superintended by the Rev. Henry Leeves, now residing, as its principal agent for that quarter, in Constantinople. Mr. Leeves set out for his station, in the month of June last, took the route of Paris, Geneva, and Venice, at each of which places he entered into useful communication with the correspondents and the friends of the Society; and, having spent several weeks at Corfu, very greatly to the advantage of the affairs of the Ionian Bible Society, and touched at Zante on his way to Constantinople; he arrived at that capital on the 9th of January, 1821, and shortly after entered upon the duties of his office. With the assistance of the Rev. James Connor (whom he found at Constantinople,) Mr. Leeves proceeded to revise the Modern Greek Version of Hilarion, to which reference has already been made, and he is now occupied in further carrying into execution the

plans which his precursor, Dr. Pinkerton, had arranged.

By the unexpected decease of the Rev. Charles Williamson, and the return of Mr. Connor to England, Mr. Leeves found himself deprived of much necessary assistance; but as the Society has engaged the services of Benjamin Barker, Esq. of Aleppo; a gentleman from whose knowledge of the country, and the languages of Syria, much advantage is likely to be derived, the deficiency occasioned by a part of that loss, will be soon very beneficially supplied.

It only remains to speak of the Armenian Scriptures sent out, at the expense of your Society, from the college of St. Lazaro, at Venice; and for which the people of the Armenian nation, among whom they were discreetly distributed, have expressed their warmest gratitude: and of the translation of the entire Bible into the Amharic dialect of Abyssinia. The purchase of this invaluable manuscript was made for the Society, by the judicious negotiation of the Rev. William Jowett; and, on its safe arrival, after its hazardous passage from Cairo to London, arrangements were made, without loss of time, for preparing a portion of it for circulation, in that part of Abyssinia where the Amharic dialect is used.

Your Committee acknowledged with due gratitude the important assistance they received from the Post-Office, in getting safe possession of a work, which, had it by any casualty been lost, or materially injured, it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to have had replaced or repaired. But their more particular thanks are due to the Rev. Mr. Jowett, whose persevering exertions enabled him to surmount the numerous obstacles which stood in the way of the Society's obtaining a treasure, by which they hope, in due course of time, to rekindle among the Abyssinians that Scriptural light which has nearly become extinguished.

With the Rev. Mr. Jowett, as connected with him in the service of the Church Missionary Society, the Rev. Mr. Connor should also be mentioned, as deserving the grateful acknowledgments of your Society, for having, in a very extensive and diversified tour,

opened channels for the circulation of the Scriptures, formed connexions of which hereafter a most profitable use may be made, and in various other ways materially promoted the object of your Institution.

[To be concluded in our next.]

Home Proceedings.

UNITED FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

From the *Union* and *Great Osage* Missions, several letters have been received since the publication of our last number. They add, however, very little to our former advices. A few extracts will be subjoined.

It will be recollected, that Mr. JOB P. VINALL, who, in the service of the United Foreign Missionary Society, accompanied the Rev. Mr. Chapman, in his first tour to the Arkansas Territory, was unable, in consequence of indisposition, to return with his companion; and that he subsequently died in that country. The single fact of his death was announced in the *Gazettes* of the day; but, the circumstances of the afflictive event were not communicated, either to the Board of Managers, or to the public. In January last, the Domestic Secretary addressed a letter to Mr. Chapman, requesting him to institute an inquiry, and to furnish all the facts he could obtain, on the subject. With this request Mr. C. has complied, in a letter dated at Union on the 23d of July, which has just come to hand, and which will be given below.

UNION MISSION.

[EXTRACTS OF LETTERS.]

Rev. Mr. Chapman to the Domestic Secretary.

Having alluded to the sickness of both the Agents before they arrived at Fort Smith, Mr. Chapman proceeds as follows :--

After our arrival at Fort Smith, Mr. Vinnall seemed, for a few days, to have much improved his health by his journey, when his paroxysms of ague and fever returned. These in a great measure subsided before my departure, and he appeared again to be rapidly recovering. He frequently rode out, and exercised considerably in other ways; but did not think himself able to endure

the fatigue, privations, and dangers, which were before us in traversing a long distance of pathless wilderness. He, therefore, thought it best to descend the river to New-Orleans in a large keel boat, which offered him good accommodations, in a few days; and thence proceed directly home by water, if the state of his health should not justify his farther attention to the business of the Society. Such were his circumstances when we parted, mutually commending each other to the grace of God.

At that time, his apparent prospects of seeing his friends again in this world, and probably his expectations, were much more flattering than mine. But,

alas! how uncertain is human life! He is suddenly called home, while I am required yet to wait, and wonder, and mourn his loss.

I did not learn the particulars of his sickness and death, until my arrival at Fort Smith with the Mission Family last winter. We were then informed, that he continued to recover strength rapidly for three weeks after my departure. Major Bradford, commandant of the garrison, gave him free access to the public medical stores, and afforded him every other assistance and accommodation in his power. Mrs. Bradford likewise showed him the kindness of a dear sister, and provided for him every thing which heart could wish; and, being ignorant of the nature of diseases, and prompted by the spirit of kindness, she furnished him in too great abundance, with the richest food which that ungovernable appetite, that always attends a recovery from the fever, imperiously craved. As the late worthy and much lamented Dr. Russel, (formerly of Boston,) United States surgeon at this post, had left this world a few weeks before, there was no Physician within about three hundred miles, to warn and advise; and, it is supposed, that the quantity of strong food which he had incautiously eaten on the 16th of October, occasioned the fit of apoplexy, under which he lingered for several days; and which terminated his life on the 24th. He rests from his labours, and his works do follow him. Although dead, he yet speaketh; and his holy example, in endeavouring to share in the blessed work of communicating the gospel to the heathen, calls loudly for the imitation of his friends and survivors.

As to his effects, I have to say, that he had with him, no other property of his own, than his wearing apparel, which was worn very thin, and a common silver watch. Of the property of the Society, he had in his possession, a horse, bridle, and saddle, a portmanteau, and \$40 75 in money. Of this sum, thirteen dollars were paid for his

funeral expenses—leaving a balance of \$27 75. This balance, and all the articles mentioned, were delivered into our hands on the 5th of July, instant, by Major Bradford, who generously refused to receive any thing for board, expenses of sickness, and nursing.

EXTRACTS FROM THE JOURNAL.

In our last, the journal of this Mission was brought up to the 7th of March. It will now be continued to the 27th of May, comprising all we have yet received.

Removal to their new Cabins.

Saturday, March 10th.—In the course of the past week, the family moved into their new cabins. Never, since we left our dwellings in the East, have we felt more pleasure, than in finding a place in this far remote wilderness, which we may call our home, where we may live and labour for the salvation of the heathen.

The first Marriage.

This evening Brother Redfield and Sister Beach, having been engaged to each other before they left home, were united in the solemn bonds of matrimony. The ceremony was performed immediately after our usual prayer-meeting. May God bless this union, not only to them but also to the Mission Family, and to the heathen.

Lord's day, March 11th.—The brethren and sisters appear to have been quickened this day to the duty of prayer. A traveller's life is not friendly to regular devotion; but now we are again settled, we hope God will enable us to pray with more constancy.

Arrival of nine Osage Warriors.

Wednesday, March 14th.—Yesterday, had a visit from nine Osage Warriors, who by their statement, had set out for the garrison, to learn whether the Cherokees mean to go to war with them; but some new fears being excited in their minds lest they should meet the enemy, they tarried till to-day, and returned to their village. The nation has

been some time waiting to hear from Gov. Miller, who promised to inform them, if the Cherokees determined upon fighting. As they have had no letter, they are yet in doubt whether war is declared. This evening, Mr. Ransom has been seized with violent fits, of which he has had nine in succession. They were caused by eating a poisonous root, which grows near the house. Some others of the Family tasted it at the same time without fear, supposing by its taste it had the nature of spikenard. How distressed has been the case of this dear friend. How uncertain is health. It is doubtful whether he will continue through the night. How precarious the tenure by which we are held to life.

Thursday, March 15th.—Our hopes of Mr. Ransom's recovery have revived.

Saturday, March 17th.—This day put our blacksmith's shop into operation. Brother Woodruff's occupation will be of great importance to the establishment. Mr. Ransom is gradually regaining his reason and health. Many mercies have followed us the week past. May we be prepared to keep the sabbath with thanksgiving and praise.

War between the Osages and Cherokees.

Wednesday, March 28th.—Received information from Major Bradford, of war being declared between the Cherokees and Osages. He states that the Cherokees had requested that the white people might be removed, lest their young men should molest them. We conclude that it is our duty to trust God, and continue here. "*The name of the Lord is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it, and is safe.*"

Thursday, March 29th.—To-day Brother Palmer has experienced a severe attack of the intermittent. Brother George Requa has been afflicted with this disorder for some time past.

Saturday, March 31.—Brother Palmer and brother Geo. Requa are reduced very low. Brother Woodruff is not

well, and Mr. Ransom too feeble to labour.

Lord's day, April 1.—We had hoped to have formed ourselves into a church the past week, and to have partaken of the sacrament this day; but illness prevented. A committee has been appointed to prepare articles of fellowship, to be laid before the Family, as soon as the business can be sufficiently matured.

Monday, April 2.—This evening attended the monthly concert. It was a season of peculiar comfort to our souls. The thought, that so many are praying for this Mission, gave new animation. We seemed to lose sight of the distance from our beloved friends in Christ, and for a moment to forget our trials.

Rules for Business Meetings.

Tuesday, April 3.—Held a meeting of the Brethren this evening, when the following regulations, previously prepared by a committee, were presented and adopted:—

Whereas, the Board of Managers of the United Foreign Missionary Society, in their general instructions to the Union Mission Family, have left many things to our "prudence and piety;" and whereas they have strongly recommended, that "we bring the daily exercises of the Family into systematic order;" that we may more effectually, by the blessing of God upon our endeavours, promote the benevolent designs of the Board, and secure love, peace and harmony among ourselves, we adopt the following regulations:

Sect. I. Respecting Meetings for Business.

Art. 1st. It being understood by the instructions of the Board, that the Superintendent or Assistant, when present, shall preside in the meeting; when both are absent, the meeting shall appoint a brother to preside.

Art. 2d. Every regular meeting shall be opened with prayer by the Superintendent, or brother who presides.

Art. 3d. The Superintendent or presiding brother, shall propose the business of the meeting, preserve order.

explain any question if necessary, speak to the merits of the question if he sees fit, after the brethren have offered their opinions, call for the vote, and adjourn the meeting.

Art. 4th. Every motion necessary to be recorded shall be presented in writing.

Art. 5th. All questions designed to be referred to the Board of Managers, shall be laid before the Family, at least two meetings before they are transmitted.

Art. 6th. If any member has, in his view, reason to appeal to the Board, his appeal shall be laid before the Family at least one week previously to the proposed time of making said appeal.

Art. 7th. Regular meetings for business shall be held every Tuesday evening, and by adjournment, for a shorter time, if necessary.

Art. 8th. The Superintendent or Assistant, or in their absence, the oldest brother present, shall consider it his duty to call a special meeting at the request of any two members of the Family.

Art. 9th. It shall be the duty of every brother to attend punctually to the business of each meeting.

Visit from the principal Chief.

Wednesday, April 4.—Had a visit from Clamore, with a number of his warriors. He told us that 400 of his warriors were going against the Cherokees; that after a short encampment for hunting on this side of the river, they intended to cross and march down to the Cherokee nation, and attack them on their own ground; and that he himself had come as far as here to warn us, not to let our cattle or horses, be out of sight, lest some of his young men should take them. He stated in particular, his fear of misconduct from those of the other villages, over whom he had no control. Clamore appeared much attached to us, and we doubt neither his friendship for this Family, nor his loyalty to the Government of the United States. Brother Chapman

presented him a pair of shoes, which his brother in Connecticut had made for the principal Chief. He was much pleased with the gift, and when brother Chapman told him they were from his brother, Clamore replied, "*He is my Brother.*"

Want of labourers.

Thursday, April 13.—Our business goes on very slowly for the want of hands. About half of the brethren, and one hired hand, are unable to labour for the present. The brothers who have been afflicted with the intermittent are, however, gradually recovering.

This evening, at the meeting for business,

Voted 1. That we employ four additional labourers.

Voted 2. That one of the brethren set out as soon as it is consistent, for the purpose of obtaining the four labourers; and that, if they cannot be obtained nearer, he go as far as Billingsley's Settlement.

Saturday, April 14.—The Osages who went down last week, are returning; they say, they have killed several of the Cherokees, and some Quappaws; and it appears they have stolen many horses from the white people. In consequence of this state of things, we have been prevented from pursuing after help as we intended, and at present, we have only one additional labourer engaged. A few days ago a man came and offered himself, but we understand this evening, that he is likely to disappoint us. We brought with us three ploughs, but they are not stout enough for this new soil, and cost us much labour to keep them in repair. It requires much time to make and keep in order the necessary utensils. While, therefore, we advance as fast as our strength and means will allow, we commit our work into the hands of God and pray for His blessing upon our endeavours.

Tuesday, April 17.—At a meeting this evening, voted, that brother Chapman and brother William C. Requa, be ap-

pointed to study the Osage language. It being understood that brother R. devote only so much of his time to it as is consistent with his duty of working on the farm. Our interpreter, who engaged to come the 15th of this month, has not yet arrived.

Friday, April 20.—Mr. Ransom, whose health has been slowly returning, set off this morning by request of the Family, in pursuit of help.

Review of the first year of Missionary service.

A year has this day elapsed since we left the city of New-York. Thus far the Lord has led us on. In review of this first year of Missionary service, we have great reason to be humbled for our manifold transgressions; and to be thankful for the abundant mercies which we have received. We have been led in a way which we knew not. May God grant us grace to set out with renewed energy; and may past experience, be blessed for our future comfort and usefulness.

Monday, April 23.—The man who has been engaged to us, came to labour for us this morning.

Tuesday, April 24.—Purchased forty-nine bushels of corn.

Wednesday, April 25.—Mr. Ransom returned this evening with three labourers. He has been as far down as the Sallissaw, 75 miles from the station. We fear the war between the Osages and Cherokees will be carried on to the great distress of the Osage people. Their conduct, in their excursion, was very bad. It appears evident to-day, by people who are going to the village, to recover their horses, that they killed some of the Delaware tribe who fell in their way, supposing them to be Cherokees; that they also robbed some families of the white people; and that they killed the Quappaws who are at peace with them, at the instigation of a young chief, to revenge the death of some of his relations in a former quarrel. It is expected that some of the Cherokees are about to make a general attack

upon this unhappy nation. Brother Chapman went this morning to the village, to ascertain as near as possible, what were their intentions, and to gain what information he could to direct us in our measures this summer.

Friday, April 27.—Brother Chapman returned, having suffered much the day past, by riding in a cold rain. He found the Chiefs more united than usual; sick of the war; and sorry for the misconduct of their people, in killing the Quappaws and Delawares, and robbing the whites. Clamore said, "*He did not send his men down to conduct so!*" It is said the conduct of the young chief is wholly disapproved, and that he has escaped from the village.

Lord's Day, April 29.—Brother Chapman has been much afflicted with a cold, which he took in coming from the village.

Friday, May 4.—Our work has progressed for a week past with more life. We have now six hired men, who are all active.

Lord's Day, May 6.—The Sabbath is indeed a day of rest. How gloomy would be our condition, were we not blessed by its cheering influence.

Monday, May 7.—The first Monday of each month brings to mind the duty of this family to pray, more especially for the cause in which we have engaged. While we feel that our friends do pray for us, we are sensible that they cannot understand all our wants or trials. They will know hereafter, when we have time to tell them, but they cannot know at this moment, what a dark cloud hangs over us.

Tuesday, May 8.—At a meeting this evening further regulations were adopted:—

SECT. II. *Respecting duties not specified by the Board.*

ART. 1. One of the brethren shall be appointed to write the journal of the Mission, and other official communications; which shall be submitted to the family for approbation. Brother Vaill was appointed to this duty.

ART. 2. One of the brethren shall act as Treasurer, whose duty it shall be to attend to the pecuniary concerns of the family, and report to them the state of the Treasury as often as necessary.—This duty was assigned to brother Chapman.

ART. 3. There shall be a standing Clerk, whose duty it shall be to preserve the doings of the meeting, transcribe the journal and other official communications, and also to record the reports of the respective departments of the family.—Brother Palmer was appointed to this office.

Wednesday, May 9.—Heard of the death of Lydia Carter, a little Osage captive, whom the Cherokees had taken in war a few years since, and who had been purchased of them, by a generous lady whose name she had received, and committed to the school at Brainerd. She, with some others, had been sent over to the Arkansas in view of being given up to the Osages. She had been baptized, and, when she left the school at Brainerd, letters were sent to us in hopes that she would soon become a member of our school. War breaking out, she was retained among the Cherokees till God was pleased to take her to himself.

Saturday, May 12.—Our business has gone forward with success. The health of the brethren has been restored. We have planted a field of seven acres, and secured it with fence, besides enclosing a garden about the house of four acres.

Lord's Day, May 13.—This evening we have been led to consider the importance of more frequent seasons of social prayer and religious conference. The subject of lukewarmness has this day been discussed, as we hope, to our mutual benefit. God has been pleased to visit us this evening with his quickening presence.

Monday, May 14.—In view of our embarrassments in learning the language of the Osages, the brethren voted, this morning: That Brother Chapman should repair immediately to the vil-

lage, to learn as well as he could the expediency of going with the Osages on their hunting expedition, to gain the object. Having been disappointed in obtaining an interpreter, and they being about to be absent through the summer, we know of no other way.

Tuesday, May 15.—Brother Chapman returned this evening, and states, that he had not seen the Indians; that the village, to appearance, had been cleared for several days; and that he pursued them across the Verdigris; but, for the want of food, and having no means to procure it, was obliged to return. Except a biscuit or two, he has had no food for two days.

Wednesday, May 16.—At a special meeting this morning, voted, that Brother Chapman and Brother William C. Requa make preparations, as soon as possible, and pursue the Indians to their hunting ground, in order to be with them to learn their language. This measure has been resorted to, as the only alternative in our present condition. We have been crossed and disappointed in regard to acquiring the language. Thus God is trying us. We need it. May we adore and not murmur. This evening, in regular meeting, the Brethren passed further regulations.

SECT. II. ART. 4. One of the brethren shall be appointed to take charge of the goods, whose duty it shall be to keep an inventory of all the articles furnished for the use of the Mission; to arrange them in proper order in the storehouse; to secure them from waste; and keep a correct account of the things which are taken out for the general use of the Mission, or appropriated to individuals.

SECT. III. *Respecting the appropriation of Goods.*

ART. 1. The goods, in common stock shall be appraised according to their relative value by a committee appointed for that purpose.

ART. 2. The Superintendent, with two other members of the Family, shall be appointed to advise and adjudge con-

cerning the articles "necessary to be used by the Family in general and appropriated to individuals.

SECT IV. *Respecting Reports.*

A written report shall be submitted to the Family annually, and oftener if necessary, by each department, concerning its progress, and the state of its business.

Overture for Peace.

Thursday, May 17.—A person has called upon us, who has been in pursuit of stolen horses. He left the Osages at their encampments, about twenty miles beyond the village. He informs us, that Clamore requested him to go to Webber, one of the most influential Chiefs among the Cherokees, and inform him that he wished to have peace; that he did not wish to injure the white people, and that there were too many between the two nations for them to be at war; that he would keep his young men from fighting three months, and give the Cherokees time to conclude whether they would make peace or continue the war; that if they would send an agent, or properly authorized person, with a Chief, he would conclude a peace that would stand; that if, after that, any of the people of his village made depredations, he would be answerable; and that if any of the other villages committed depredations, he would assist the Cherokees in gaining satisfaction of those villages; but as he could not control the other villages, he did not want to be answerable for the damages which they might do. He said that he did not beg a peace, because he could send an army of 1500 warriors, and that if they saw fit to carry on the war, he should, on his part, carry it on with vigour. We hope this presages a speedy termination of war.

This evening voted, 1. That Brother Spaulding be appointed to take charge of the storehouse.

II. That Brethren Vaill, Spaulding, and Palmer, be appointed a Committee of Appraisal.

III. That Brother Chapman and Sister Johnson be appointed to assist the Superintendent, in advising and adjudging, concerning the appropriation of the goods.

Wednesday, May 23.—Brother Spaulding has had another attack of the intermittent, which has much reduced his strength.

Thursday, May 24.—Passed the following votes:

I. That we erect a frame building, 48 feet long by 20 feet in width, two stories high, with a piazza in front, a cellar, and cellar kitchen below.

II. That we commence this building immediately.

Our millwright, with Brother Redfield, have been engaged for several days past, in exploring the streams, to find a millseat. They have not yet found one, which will answer our purpose. After much consultation, we have, therefore, concluded to commence one of our permanent buildings without delay. Although it will cost us more, we must make use of a whip-saw for the present.

Church established.

The Family assembled this evening, to attend to the articles drawn up by the Committee for the Constitution of the Church. They were read and considered, and the Family concluded to meet again to-morrow, to decide whether they were such as met their approbation.

Friday, May 25.—We have nearly enclosed seventeen acres more, and ploughed and planted about half with corn. The spring has been very backward for this country; and, until within a few weeks, the ground has been dry. We have planted as much ground as, by the most active exertions, we could prepare. It is a laborious work to fence the fields.

The Family met again, and assented unanimously to the articles and covenant, as suitable for them to adopt in forming a Church. In this meeting, the sweetest harmony of feeling and

sentiment has been manifested. We have concluded to set apart to-morrow for the purpose of forming ourselves into a Church, and of attending to suitable religious exercises, together with fasting. We have agreed, that it is our duty to suspend our business, and invite our hired men to observe the day with us.

Saturday, May 26.—Spent the day in fasting and prayer, as proposed yesterday. Formed the Church, by solemnly professing our belief in the Articles of Christian Doctrine, and covenanting together. Two discourses were delivered on the relative duties of ministers and the people. As soon as the Church was formed, the lay brethren expressed their desire, in writing, that Brother Vaill and Brother Chapman should take the pastoral care of this Church, to which they agreed; promising to discharge the duties of Pas-

tors so long as God in his Providence should continue their connexion with this Mission. We have now, by the blessing of God, planted a Church in this wilderness, which we hope will prove a fruitful vine, spreading its branches far and wide for the healing of the nations. The day has been observed by our labourers with more than usual solemnity.

First Administration of the Lord's Supper.

Lord's Day, May 27.—United at the table of Christ, and received the symbols of his body and blood, of his sufferings and death, of his love and presence. The Transaction has brought Christ our Lord near to us, and made us realize more than ever his promise, "*Lo! I am with you.*" O, the delightful, precious season! May it strengthen us to future labours, and be a foretaste of greater joys to come.

GREAT OSAGE MISSION.

Extract of a letter from Miss Woolley to her Mother.

Mission Boats, Aug. 8, 1821.

May the Lord direct my pen, and enable me to speak of his goodness; for truly his goodness and mercy have followed us all our way. He hath not dealt with us according to our iniquities, but in his great loving-kindness hath he watched over us for good. Most of the family enjoy comfortable health. Although a number are feeble, yet no raging fever burns their sickly frame. The most infirm are able to walk abroad; our spirits are good, and our prospects are flattering.

We entered the Osage river on the 29th of June; and on the first of July, we met on one of its banks for Divine worship. Our Sanctuary, formed by the God of nature, was grand and sublime. We assembled under a large shelving rock, sufficiently extensive to shelter a thousand persons from the peltings of the storm, or to shadow them from the scorching rays of the sun. Here we

met with only one white family, the last we expect to see on our way to the Indian settlement.

On the 2d of August, we arrived at Chateau's Establishment. Here, for the first time, we saw Osage Indians. We were politely received by Wah-ton-eyah, a warrior of distinction, who had been left here to give to the chiefs information of our arrival. When three of the brethren, who had gone forward, approached the Indian huts, this warrior marched out with an air which would not have disgraced royalty. He took the Missionaries by the hand, and bade them a cordial welcome. He then walked down to the river, and welcomed the whole family to the territory of his nation.

At this place, we found many of the Osage Indians. Their appearance is most interesting. Their cleanliness much surprised us. We could not but love their children, some of whom were neatly dressed, while others were entirely destitute of clothing. One of the

Indians said he had two children, and he would send them to school, and when they became white-men, he would come and live with us, and be a white-man too.

In the course of the afternoon, we moved up the river about a mile. Wah-toneyah accompanied us, took a seat at our table, and conducted himself with propriety. On the 3d, we rested, while the brethren examined the land. On the 4th, we moved up the stream until we were arrested by the shoals. On the 6th, the brethren took a more extensive view of the land, and found a situation about four miles distant by land, and

eight or ten by water, with which they are highly pleased.

Some of the brethren are now employed in erecting a store-house on the scite just mentioned, while others are conveying goods thither in a skiff. Brothers Newton and Bright have gone to the Missouri river for horses, oxen, cows, &c. We are within 80 miles of Fort Osage, to which all letters for our family should in future be directed. The Osage chiefs and warriors have not yet returned from their summer's hunt. They are expected soon, and on their return a Council will be immediately held.

Foreign Intelligence.

SOUTH SEA ISLANDS, AND NEW SOUTH WALES.

UNDER THE CARE OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

[Selected from the *London Missionary Chronicle*.]

SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

Interesting communications have been recently received from New South Wales, Otaheite, &c.

A letter from Mr. Henry Bicknell to Mr. Hudson, dated Taheite, May 22, 1820, came to hand a few days ago, with other letters of a later date. In the above letter, Mr. Bicknell states, that his health was then in an improved state, but that others of the Missionaries were very unwell, particularly Mr. Wilson.

In relation to the state of the mission at Taheite, he writes in an encouraging manner; he says, "I have baptized 297 persons;" and, in the various stations he judged that about 2000 had been baptized. "We are living (says Mr. B.) in a remote part of the island, for the sake of the mission, but there is work enough for ten missionaries. About 700 people attend at the chapel near our residence, and I preach to them four times a week; and when from home, at the other districts, more frequently. About 400 belong to the school, where I attend two days in the week, and 20 teachers are employed.

Thus diligently was this good man, [the first individual, we believe, who offered his services to the Society] engaged; and it might have been hoped,

from the improved state of his health, that his exertions would be long continued; but we are informed, by a letter from Port Jackson, that his labours are terminated, and that the Lord, whom he faithfully served, has been pleased to call him to his rest and reward.

We are concerned to add, that another labourer, in the same part of the vineyard, Mr. Tessier, is no more in this world. He was advanced in years, and so feeble, that he could not travel, but was useful.

Mr. Wilson, also, who has been an efficient labourer, was mentioned in Mr. Bicknell's letter as greatly reduced by illness, so that his recovery was deemed doubtful. We are now informed, that he thought it necessary to remove to Port Jackson, in hope of restoration.

Mr. Darling, who had resided for a time at Eimeo, returned to Otaheite on the 22d of October, 1819, and settled at a new station (called *Burder's Point*) among the people of *Atahura*. A great alarm of war prevailed at that time, which, however, soon subsided, and a considerable number of the natives have settled near the spot.

In a letter dated June 5, 1820, Mr. Darling says, "We have baptized 151 adults and 287 children. The work of the Lord is prospering among us, and

many who were formerly thirsting for blood have become as meek as lambs. This is the Lord's doing, and it is wonderful in our eyes."

"The people of Atahura consist of two principal divisions; we agreed to supply that at some distance from us every Sabbath; but this would not satisfy them; they determined to remove and live near us, that they might enjoy the means of instruction on the week days also. This they have done. Their principal chief has of late become very attentive, and we intend soon to baptize him. We think it necessary to make a selection of those who offer themselves, for were we to receive all who desire it, we might baptize all the people of Atahura next week. Those whom we baptize we consider as candidates for the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper, and we catechise them twice a week.

The Gospel of Matthew has been printed at this station; the people received it with great eagerness, and many were much disappointed who could not obtain a copy."

Several other letters from the South Sea Islands have come to hand, which we have not room for in the present Number.

HUAHEINE.

We have received the First (printed) Report of the mission at this island, up to December 1819.

This Report states, that at FARE, the district in which the brethren reside, the congregation has considerably increased, and consists generally of 300 or 400 persons. Two of the brethren had made a tour of the island, and it is hoped, that some were awakened to a sense of Divine things.

Schools.

The number of scholars has been greatly augmented. There are schools also at MAEVA and at MAHAPU, and a Sunday-school at each of the three places, which promises much usefulness. The number of scholars at FARE is about 500, and 100 in the Sunday-school; at MAEVA 300, and 80 children; at MAHAPU 250, and 50 children.

Translations.

The good work of translating is going forward. "We have (say the brethren) been enabled to put another portion of the word of God into the hands of the people—an edition of 2000 copies of the Gospel of Matthew, which

we finished in October last. They were sought with avidity, and received with gratitude, by all. The Gospel of Mark is translated, and the Psalms are in hand." Mr. Nott has also translated the Gospel of John, and the Acts of the Apostles.

Baptism.

"On the 12th of September, we had the happiness to baptize 15, who were proper subjects; among whom were MAHINE and HANT, the principal chiefs of the island; there are also several candidates now under instruction, whom we intend soon to baptize."

Civilization.

We have observed, with peculiar pleasure, the improvement in the outward condition of the people, and their progress in civilization. Several of them have finished very neat plastered dwelling houses, with doors and windows; and are boarding their bedrooms. They have also erected a very strong and capacious place of worship, 90 feet by 60; it is plastered within and without, and they are sawing boards for the floor.

Considerable progress has also been made in cultivation; many acres around us are enclosed and stocked with food of various kinds. Useful tools, pit saws, &c. together with paper and writing utensils, are in great demand among them. The females especially are much improved in their habits and appearance. When they procure a few yards of foreign cloth, it is not, as formerly, carelessly bound round their waists, but made up into gowns, which gives them a much more decent appearance. Our sisters have, by every means in their power, contributed to their improvement; and they continually instruct them, in their own respective houses, in needlework; in which some have made considerable proficiency.

We cannot conclude our report without testifying our gratitude to the Divine Author of all good, for the mercies we have received since the commencement of our mission here; and we earnestly entreat an interest in the prayers of all who long for the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom among men, that our feeble hands may be strengthened by the mighty God of Jacob, and we enabled, with a single eye to his glory, and a love for immortal souls, to hold on, till he shall call us from the fields of labour to the abodes of rest."

Further Information.

In a letter from one of the brethren at Huaheine, to a friend, dated June 1820, enclosing the preceding Report, he says, "Since that time (Dec. 1819) our missionary affairs have prospered greatly. Our people, I believe, have finished the best, neatest, and most commodious place of worship in all the islands, though there are several good ones at Tihiti and elsewhere.

Our people may be divided into four classes.

1. *Common hearers.* Almost every one in the island may be included in this class; and our congregation at Tare Harbour, for many weeks past, has been on the Sabbath from 1400 to 1600, yet our chapel is not near full.

2. *Those who are Candidates for Baptism,* and have tickets for admission to a weekly meeting, held every Thursday afternoon for conversation with them. Their number at present is about 570. The conduct and experience of these are carefully inquired into, that we may be able to ascertain who are qualified for Baptism and Church membership.

3. *The baptized.* We have baptized in all 55, including some children.

4. Those who have been admitted to the Lord's table, are, as yet, only 14; but most of the baptized are judged to be proper subjects for this ordinance also, and are intended for regular church membership; and probably about 30 more will shortly be baptized, as they desire it earnestly, and their profession and conduct are, in every respect, consistent.

School.

The School under my superintendence (says Mr. D.) has prospered greatly. It consists now of between 700 and 800, including children and adults; and there are now but few in the island who cannot read.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Extract of a Letter from Mr. James Hayward, Missionary, dated Sydney, February 9, 1821.

I wrote you last from Bonavista, and informed you, if I mistake not, of our Captain's relinquishing the voyage, and proceeding thence to America, a circumstance which Mrs. Hayward and myself very much regretted. During the time we were together on board, he showed us kindness, and every mark

of respect, and, for our comfort, every attention in his power. He took an affectionate farewell of us. On his quitting the Hope, the command devolved on our first officer.

We left Bonavista on the 29th July, soon after which we had contrary winds, and found our vessel to be leaky. Aug. 12, we crossed the Equator, and stood for the island of Trinidad, where, I believe, the Captain intended to have touched, had the weather permitted. As we advanced to the South, where the vessel had more motion, we found she began more seriously to leak. The water in her hold rose at times nearly a foot in an hour, which employed the seamen night and day at the pump, and excited, in some, apprehensions of danger. The Captain, in consequence, was induced to steer for the island of Trisban da Cunha, and on the lee side thereof endeavoured for several hours to lie to, in order, if possible, to discover and secure the leak; in this, however, he failed, but found it soon after he sailed again. We had now the unpleasant prospect of having to make 160 degrees of longitude in a leaky condition, before a hope could be entertained of procuring the assistance we needed, as it was intended we should touch no where else until we arrived at New Holland. Our little vessel, originally designed for speed only, of which we had no reason to complain, was heavy laden, and for a passage of such length, in the seas over which we had to sail, drew too great a depth of water. The consequence was, that when the weather was rough, heavy seas broke on board, and rolled from side to side on her decks in torrents, so that they were covered with water for weeks together. Thus, when the sea was boisterous, and the nights dark, and the idea of being far from port occurred to our minds, our situation on board became dismal and comfortless.

We made the coast of New Holland on the 13th of October, and anchored in Sydney Cove, on the 23d. The first report of land was welcome news to all on board, but to none more so, I believe, than to myself, and my dear wife, who had, during a considerable part of the passage, from the use of bad water, and living principally on salt provisions, to which she had not been accustomed, suffered very severely in her health. Her strength and spirits became much reduced, and her mind, though naturally lively and cheerful, much depressed and dejected, so that

for some time previously to our making the port, serious apprehensions were entertained by myself, and others on board, that she would scarcely be able to survive the voyage. However, for her preservation and comfort, every indulgence, in the power of the captain to grant, was got for the purpose. We landed on the evening of the 23d, and immediately went to reside with the relations of Mrs. H. where her health was attended to, and through whose kind attention and the divine goodness, it has been comfortably restored, and she is now anxiously waiting for an opportunity to proceed with me to our station and work, and this we expect to do in the Hope, the vessel we sailed in from England. Our detention here, which has been much longer than we ever wished or expected, has been occasioned by the absence of the Rev. Mr. Marsden, who had been some months, and was for some weeks before our arrival, in the colony at New-Zealand.

At Sydney, we found, on our arrival, Mr. Wilson, who had lately come from the islands to reside for a time in the colony for the benefit of his health, from whom no doubt you will receive every information respecting the islands, &c. which he has to communicate. From him, with sorrow, we heard of the death of the two brethren, Messrs. Bicknell and Tessier, at Otaheite. The death of brother Bicknell will be a serious loss to Mrs. B. and her four children, situated as they are.

The Hope, Mr. Birnie's vessel, is just come in from a voyage, with distress-

ing tidings. She has lost her first officer and five men. We hope now shortly to leave the colony for the islands, and, if we comply with the request of Pomare, not to my old station in Eimeo, but to Matavai, to join him and Mr. Nott, who are both residing there. In order to comply with the king's wish, I must remove my house, now at Eimeo, to Otaheite, and erect it again, which will unavoidably be attended with great labour and expense. How this will be, I shall perhaps be able to inform you by the return of the Hope."

We have stated above, that Mr. Wilson had thought it needful for the recovery of his health, to take a voyage to the colony, where, as we learn from a letter written by him at Sydney, Feb. 7, 1821, he arrived in the Haweis, Sept. 26, 1820.

He says, "by two Russian ships which touched at the islands about a week after we left them, we have received the mournful intelligence of the death of our dear brethren, Bicknell and Tessier; but I am unable to mention any particulars. Brother B. has left his widow with four children, and she herself is but in a poor state of health."

He further says, "I do not wish to remain here one hour longer than is necessary. We expect that the Hope will sail from hence to the islands in about two months, to bring the cocoa-nut oil procured for the Society, when, God willing, brother Hayward, his partner and myself, intend to proceed with her."

Miscellanies.

We have had on hand for some time, a number of interesting articles for this head, which have been excluded for want of room. One or two of them will now be inserted, and others will be brought forward as soon as our limits will admit. The following narrative, copied from the Evangelical Magazine for August last, will be read with more than ordinary interest.

FRENCH MOUNTAINEERS.

*Chateau de Belleuve, pres Paris,
July 1st, 1821.*

DEAR SIR,

The circumstances which I have simply and faithfully narrated, happened to one of my intimate friends resident

in Paris. A considerable diminution of interest must result from a translation of the idiomatic and forcible phraseology of the French departments into the ordinary medium of British conversation; but I have thought it not uninteresting to your readers to know, that while the Pagan world is prepared to

receive the gospel, God, without any visible agency, is also disposing the Continent of Europe, and especially this once enlightened country, to welcome the free and faithful proclamation of his grace. I could record similar facts in the Departments du Nord, pas de Calais, Vaucluse, and Pyrenees, &c.

Yours, most truly,

MARK WILKES.

M. —, a merchant at the head of one of the first commercial houses in Paris, had lately occasion to visit the manufactories established in the mountainous tracts of the Departments of the Loire and of the Puy de Dome. The road that conducted him back to Lyons traversed a country rich in natural production, and glowing with all the charms of an advanced and promising Spring. The nearer view was unusually diversified; not only by the fantastic forms of mountains, the uncertain course of small and tributary streams, and the varying hues of fields of pasture, corn, vines, and vegetables; but by the combinations and contrasts of nature and of art, and the occupations of rural and commercial industry. Factories and furnaces were seen rising amidst barns and *bergeries*—peasants were digging, and ploughs gliding amidst forges and foundries of fire-arms—verdant slopes and graceful clumps were scattered amidst the black and ugly mouths of exhausted coal-pits, and the gentle murmur of the rill was subdued by the loud rattle of the loom. Sometimes M. —, and his friend, halted amidst all that is delightful and soothing; and, after a short advance, found themselves amidst barrenness, deformity and confusion. The remoter scenery was not less impressive. Behind them were the ragged mountains of Puy de Dome; the lofty Tavaré lifted his majestic head beside them, and far before appeared the brilliant summit of Mont Blanc.

Though engaged in great mercantile enterprises, and returning from a visit which was to give employment to hundreds of families in the districts he was about to quit, M. — felt powerfully the effects of the objects that pressed upon his sight; his thoughts were abstracted from the immediate end of his journey, and he was insensibly disposed for serious contemplation and religious sentiment.

In this state of mind he arrived at the skirts of a hamlet, placed on the declivity of a mountain; and being desirous of finding a shorter and more

retired track, he stopped at a little house to inquire the way. From the windows, several females were watching the movements of a little child; and, just as M. — inquired for a road across the mountains, the infant was in danger of being crushed by a coal-cart which had entered the street. The cries and alarms of the females were met by the activity of the travellers, and the companion of M. — set off to snatch the infant from danger, and place him in security. An elderly female, from the second story, gave M. —, who was still on his horse, the directions he desired; and, at the same time, expressed her uneasiness that the gentleman should have had the trouble to seek the child. "Madam, (interrupted M. —,) My friend is only performing his duty: we ought to do to another as we would that another should do to us; and, in this wretched world, we are bound to assist each other. You are kind enough to direct us travellers in the right road, and surely the least we can do is to rescue your child from danger. The Holy Scriptures teach us these duties, and the gospel presents us the example of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, when we were in ignorance and danger, came to our world to seek and save that which was lost." "Ah! Sir, (replied the good woman,) you are very condescending, and what you say is very true; but your language surprises me: it is so many years since in this village we have heard such truths, and especially from the lips of a stranger." "Madam, (resumed M. —,) we are all strangers here, and sojourners bound to eternity: there is but one road, one guide, one Saviour, who can conduct us safely; if we feel this, young or old, rich or poor, we are all one in Christ; and, however scattered on earth, shall all arrive at the heavenly city, to which he is gone to prepare mansions for us." "These doctrines, Sir, (exclaimed the female,) support the hearts of many of us, who have scarcely travelled beyond our own commune; and it is so rare and so delightful to hear them from others, that, if it will not be an abuse of your Christian politeness, I would request you to alight and to visit my humble apartment." "I shall comply most cheerfully with your request, (replied M. —,) for though time is precious, I shall be thankful to spend a few minutes in these mountains, among those with whom I hope to dwell for ever on Mount Zion." My friend M. — mounted to the second story, followed

by his companion. He found the female with whom he had conversed, surrounded by her daughters and her grand-daughters, all busily employed in five looms, filled with galoons and ribbons, destined for the capital and the most distant cities of the world. The good widow was between 60 and 70 years of age; her appearance was neat and clean: and all the arrangements of her apartment, bespoke industry, frugality, and piety. "Ah! Sir, (she exclaimed, as M. — entered,) how happy am I to receive such a visiter!" "Madam, (replied M. —) I am not worthy to enter under this roof." "Why, Sir, (exclaimed the widow,) you talked to us of Jesus Christ, and —" "Yes, Madam; but I am a poor guilty sinner, and hope only for salvation through the cross. I was yesterday at St. —, where they were planting a cross with great ceremony; were you there?" "No, Sir; for it is of little use to erect crosses in the streets, if we do not carry the cross in our hearts, and are not crucified to the world. But, Sir, if you will not be offended, may I ask what you are called?" M. — pretending to give a general sense to the French phraseology, answered, "My name, Madam, is —." "Thank you, Sir, I shall not forget; but this is not what I meant: I wish to know whether you are Protestant or Catholic, a pastor or a priest?" "Madam, I have not the honour to be either; I am a merchant: I desire to be a Christian, and to have no other title but a disciple of Christ." "That is exactly what we are here, Sir, (exclaimed the good widow, and added,) but, as you are so frank, are you, Sir, Catholic or Protestant?" "Catholic," replied M. —. Madam looked confused, and observed, "That it was rare for the Catholics to talk as her visiter had done." "I am a Catholic, (resumed M. —,) but not a member of the Roman Catholic Church. I love all that love our Lord Jesus in sincerity. I do not ask in what fold they feed, so that they are guided and nourished by the good Shepherd and bishop of souls." "O what a favour the Lord has granted us to meet with a Christian like ourselves, (said the affected widow, looking round her,) we desire to live in charity with all mankind. But, to be frank also, Sir, we do not go to mass, nor to confession, nor yet to church; for we do not learn from our Testament, which indeed is almost worn out, that we are required to confess to sinners like ourselves, nor to worship the host, nor to

perform penance for the salvation of our souls; and, we believe, we can serve God as acceptably on a mountain, or in a chamber, or in a cave, as in the finest church." "I confess, Madam, in my turn, (said M. —,) that I am exceedingly astonished to find such persons on such a spot; pray how many may there be of your sentiments?" "Here, Sir, and scattered over the mountains, there are from 3 to 400. We meet on the Sunday evenings, and as often as we can, to pray to Jesus, to read the Testament, and to converse about the salvation of our souls. We are so much persecuted by the clergy, that we cannot appear as publicly as we wish. We are called *beguines* and fools; but we can bear this, and, I hope, a great deal more, for Him who has suffered so much for us."

While the conversation, of which this is a sketch, transpired, the rooms had filled, the neighbours had been informed and introduced, at the request of the worthy hostess; and as many as could quit their occupations, pressed to hear of the things of the kingdom of God. M. — desired to see the New Testament. It was presented. The title page was gone, the leaves were almost worn to shreds by the hard fingers of the weavers and labourers, and M. — could not discover the edition. A female of respectable appearance approached M. —, and said, "Sir, for several years I have sought every where a New Testament, and I have offered any price for one, in all the neighbouring communes, but in vain. Could you, Sir, possibly procure me a copy, I will gladly pay any sum you demand—" "Madam, I will not only procure you *one*, (replied M. —, eagerly,) but in forty-eight hours I will send you half a dozen." "Is it possible? (exclaimed the astonished villagers,) May we, Sir, believe the good news? May we rely on your promise? It appears too great, too good—we will pay for them now, Sir, if you please." "You may depend on receiving them, (said M. —,) if God prolongs my life. But I entreat you to do me the favour to accept them, as a proof of my Christian regard, and an expression of my gratitude, for having been permitted to enjoy, in this unpromising spot, the refreshing company of the followers of Christ." The conversation then turned on the value of the sacred volume, and the sinfulness of those who withheld it from perishing and dejected sinners. After some time, the hostess interrupted the chain, by demanding, "Pray Sir,

"Can you tell us if any thing extraordinary is passing in the world? We are shut out from all intercourse; but we have an impression that God is commencing a great work in the earth, and that wonderful events are coming to pass." "Great events have taken place, and news is arriving every day, (said M. —,) from all parts of the world, of the progress of the gospel, and the fulfilments of the promises of the Holy Scriptures." He then gave to his attentive and enraptured auditory, an outline of the moral changes accomplished by the diffusion of the Bible, the labours of Missionaries, and the establishment of schools; but only such an outline as was suited to their general ignorance of the state of what is called the religious world. And when he had concluded, they all joined in the prayer—Thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth, as it is done in heaven.

Anxious as was M. — to pursue his journey, he devoted three hours to this interview. He exhorted them to receive and practice only what they found in the scriptures, to cleave to the Lord with full purpose of heart, and promised to use his influence to obtain for them, a pastor who should feed them with knowledge and understanding. The termination of this extraordinary meeting, was procrastinated and affecting; tears of pleasure, gratitude, and regret, streamed from the eyes of the mountaineers, and the traveller, though more deeply moved by having seen the grace of God, than by all the scenes through which he had passed, went on his way rejoicing, and following the directions of the good widow, he arrived at the town of S. — In this town he had commercial relations, with the principal inhabitants and authorities, and under the impression of all he had witnessed, he inquired, as if with the curiosity of a traveller, the name of the hamlet he had passed on the mountain, and the nature of the employment and the character of its inhabitants. The men, said the mayor, work in the mines, drive the teams, and labour in the fields; and the women and children weave. They are a very curious people, *outrés illuminés*, but the most honest workpeople of the country. Probity itself;—we have no occasion to weigh our silk, either when we give it out or take it in, for we are sure not to lose the value of an obole, and the kindest creatures in the world; they will take their shirts off their backs to give to any one in distress; indeed there is no wretchedness

among them, for though poor, they are industrious, temperate, charitable, and always assist each other; but touch them on their religion, and they are almost idiots. They never go to mass, nor confession; in fact, they are not Christians, though the most worthy people in the world,—and so droll,—imagine those poor people, after working all the week, instead of enjoying the Sunday and going to fêtes and balls to amuse themselves, they meet in each other's houses, and sometimes in the mountains, to read some books, and pray, and sing hymns. They are very clever workpeople, but they pass their Sundays and holidays stupidly enough. This testimony, so honourable to his new acquaintance, was confirmed to M. — from several quarters; and he learnt from others, what he had not been told by themselves, that besides their honesty and charity, so great is their zeal, that they flock from the different hamlets, and meet in the mountains in cold and bad weather, at 8 or 9 o'clock at night, to avoid the interruption of their priestly enemies, and to sing and pray.

These accounts were not calculated to lessen the interest excited in the breast of M. — and immediately on his arrival at Lyons, he despatched six copies of the New Testament, and some copies of a tract entitled, "*Les deux vieillards*," written by M. Nolan of Geneva. Shortly after his return to Paris, M. — received through one of his correspondents of Lyons, a letter from the excellent widow, with whom he had conversed from the window of the second story. The modesty, dignity, and piety of the composition, has induced me to subjoin a literal translation, not only to evince the influence of true religion, but to satisfy the reader, that in this narration, no exaggerated statement has been made of the characters of the mountaineers of St. —

"Sir, I have the honour to write you, to assure you of my very humble respects, and at the same time to acknowledge the reception of the six copies of the New Testament, which you had the goodness and the generosity to send us. My family, myself, and my neighbours, know not how adequately to express our sincere gratitude; for we have nothing in the world so precious as that sacred volume, which is the best food of our souls, and our certain guide to the heavenly Jerusalem.

"As we believe and are assured that the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ could alone have inspired you with the

desire to distribute the Sacred Scriptures to those who are disposed to make a holy use of them, we hope and believe that the Divine Saviour will be himself your recompense; and that he will give to you, as well as to all of us, the grace to understand, and to seek a part in his second coming; for this ought to be our only and constant desire in the times of darkness and tribulation in which we live.

"It is with this view, Sir, that I entreat you to have the goodness to send six more copies of the sacred volume for several of my friends, who are delighted, not only with the beauty of the type, but especially with the purity of the edition; for it is sufficient to see the name of Monsieur le Maître de Sacey, to be assured that this edition is strictly conformable to the sacred text. Sir, as the persons who have charged me to entreat you to send six more copies of the New Testament would be sorry to abuse your generosity, they also charge me to say, that if you accomplish their wishes, as your truly Christian kindness induces them to hope, and will mark the price on the books, they shall feel it to be a pleasure and a duty to remit you the amount, when I acknowledge the arrival of the parcel. Could you also add six copies of the little tract, entitled, "*Les Deux Vieillards*."

"I entreat you, Sir, to excuse the liberty I have taken, and to believe that, while life remains, I am, in the Spirit of our Lord Jesus Christ,

Your very humble servant,
The Widow ———."

M — hastened to gratify and exceed the wishes expressed in this letter. Instead of six copies, twenty copies of the New Testament were now presented to the widow and her friends, and a dozen instead of six of the *Deux Vieillards*. The parcel was enlarged with copies of the *Archives du Christianisme*, The Report of the Bible Society of Paris, the History of Missions, lately published by M. Gaussin, of Sartigny, the French edition of the Report of the London Missionary Society, Dr. Bogue's Essay on the New Testament, The Young Cottager, of which a French edition has been published, at the expense of a young gentleman of Paris, The Sermons of Nardin, which I have reprinted, The Dairyman's Daughter, the French translation, published in London, my *last* copy, and also my *only* remaining copy of Doddridge's *Rise and Progress*, in French. We wait for their correspondence, to inform us of the

impression produced by the arrival of such an unexpected supply. Among those who may read this account, I hope there may be some who will resolve that we shall not want funds to reprint, immediately, a large edition of Doddridge, of the Dairyman's Daughter, and other books and tracts, which are exceedingly wanted, thankfully received, and extensively useful.

VOYAGE OF THE DEPUTATION.

It affords us great pleasure to be enabled to inform our friends, that the *Tuscan*, conveying the Rev. Mr. Tyerman and Mr. Bennet, the Deputation to the South Seas Islands, together with our brethren the artisans and their wives, touched at Madeira on the 28th of May after a voyage of only nine days. After working their way against contrary winds from the 5th of May, when they embarked at Gravesend, to the 12th, they landed at Portsmouth, where they were most hospitably entertained by our Christian friends, and greatly refreshed. They got under weigh on the 19th, and passed the Lizard light-house about 12 o'clock on Sunday night. On Tuesday, they encountered two heavy gales in the Bay of Biscay, which were succeeded by a short calm; after which they proceeded rapidly to Madeira. Some of the females suffered pretty severely by sea-sickness, but were much better. Mr. T. and Mr. B. speak highly of the friendly behaviour of the captain, &c. They have family worship regularly twice a day, and two sermons on the Sabbath, besides a prayer meeting in the evening. They appear to be very friendly with each other, manifesting a truly pious spirit, which argues well to the accomplishment of their great object. They entreat the continued prayers of their friends for their health and safety during the rest of their voyage.

BOARDING-HOUSES FOR SAILORS.

We are informed that the Committee of the "British and Foreign Seaman's Friend," have taken a house near the London Dock, where sailors, on their arrival from foreign voyages, may be lodged and boarded at a moderate expense, under the superintendence of a pious brother seaman. Other houses also are proposed.

By this expedient, seamen may be preserved from becoming, as they often have been, a prey to crimps and other villains, who by artful pretences rob the poor fellows of all the money accruing to them from a long voyage.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNITED FOREIGN MISSIONARY SOCIETY.

During the Months of August and September, 1821.

	D. C.		D. C.
From B. H. Rice, Petersburg, Va. collected at their monthly prayer meeting, by Divie Bethune, Esq.	10	From a person in Winchester, Va. by the Rev. Dr. Hill,	5
From a Friend to Missions, in Maryland, a piece of gold, by the Rev. Burr Baldwin,	15	From the Rev. W. C. Brownlee, for the Auxiliary Missionary Society, of Basking Ridge, N. J.	13 50
From the Female Missionary Society of Holden, Mass. by the Rev. Mr. Avery,	2	From the same, a donation from Miss Dinah Morris, of ditto,	2
From a collection at Holden, Mass. accompanied with a box of clothing, by the Rev. Mr. Avery,	6 13	From the same, a donation from Mrs. Bockhaven, of ditto,	50
From the Missionary Society at Six Mile Run, N. J. by their treasurer, Mr. Andrew Brown,	50	From Theophilus Parvin, from the missionary box in the Oratory of the Theological Seminary at Princeton, and the avails of vegetables raised and sold by the Students,	20
From the Monthly Prayer Meeting in the Associate Reformed Church in Cedar-st. by Mr. Blake,	15	From the ladies of Bloomfield, N. J. to constitute their pastor, the Rev. Gideon N. Judd, a member for life,	30
From Job S. Halstead, Esq. treasurer of the Auxiliary Missionary Society, Newtown, L. I.	20 44	From the Newtown (L. I.) Female Auxiliary Missionary Society, by Miss Eliza Leverich, secretary, by Mr. Lewis,	23 34
From the First Presbyterian Society of Adams, Jefferson County, N. Y. enclosed by the Rev. George W. Gale,	18	From Mr. Prosper Hosmer, of Hudson, for the Osage Mission, by the Rev. Dr. Spring,	10
From the Rev. Mr. Baldwin, collected on his tour in winter and spring last,	148 72	From the United Missionary Society of Dauphin, by Edward Crouch, Esq. their treasurer, per Robert Ralston, Esq. of Philadelphia,	20
From the same, on his tour in May and June last,	196 2	From the Rev. Dr. Milledoler, being the amount of a collection from the congregation of Flemmington and Anwell, forwarded by the Rev. Samuel B. Howe,	10
From the same, to constitute himself a member for life,	30	From the Rev. Dr. Samuel Miller, to constitute him a member for life,	30
From Orrin Day, Esq. Catskill, to constitute him a member for life,	30		
From the United Presbyterian Concert of Prayer, in Baltimore, by the Rev. Mr. Nevins,	51 80		

Dolls. 717 50

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE AMERICAN BIBLE SOCIETY.

During the Month of August, 1821.

	D. C.		D. C.
<i>To constitute Ministers members for life.</i>		Charleston Bible Society, S. C. by William Payne, treasurer,	474 50
Rev. Joseph R. Walker, of the Protestant Episcopal Church, Chestertown, Kent county, Md. by the ladies of his Church,	30	Salem Bible Society in Botetourt county, Va. by G. P. Nash, secretary,	50
Rev. Joel K. Northrop, of Chester, N. H. by the ladies of his parish,	30	Montgomery County Bible Society, N. Y. by John Holland, treasurer,	136
Rev. Gilbert R. Livingston, of Coxsackie, N. Y. by one of the elders of his church,	30	Petersburgh Bible Society, Va. by Rev. B. H. Rice, secretary,	100
Rev. Robert G. Armstrong, of North-East, N. Y. by the Female B. S. of Dutchess county,	30	Cincinnati (Miami) Bible Society, Ohio, by Samuel Lowry, treasurer,	120
<i>Donations from Auxiliary Bible Societies.</i>		Maryland Bible Society, by Thomas Parker, secretary,	203
Poland Bible Society, Ohio, by Samuel Swan, treasurer,	21	Rockland County Bible Society, N. Y. by Cornelius I. Blauvelt, treasurer,	34 62
Nantucket Marine Bible Society, Mass. by Wm. Coffin, treasurer,	40	Georgetown Bible Society, District of Columbia, by John Stull, treasurer,	180
Concord Bible Society, N. C. by Thomas G. Polk, secretary,	150	Orange County Bible Society, N. J. by Rev. Dr. Hillyer, president,	16
Nassau Hall Bible Society, N. J. by Wm. Schley, secretary,	50	Delaware County Bible Society, N. Y. by Charles A. Foote, treasurer,	78
Salem Bible Society in Botetourt county, Va. by G. P. Nash, secretary,	50	Fayette County Bible Society, Penn. by Rev. Wm. Wylie, secretary,	102
Petersburgh Bible Society, Va. by Rev. Benj. H. Rice, secretary,	50	<i>Remittances for Bibles, &c. from Societies not Auxiliary.</i>	
Salem County Bible Society, N. J. by Rev. George W. Janvier, secretary,	28 25	Rhode-Island B. S. by O. Brown, treas.	52 24
Jefferson County Bible Society, Va. by Robert Worthington, treasurer,	100	New-Providence Female Bible Society, N. J. by Rev. Elias Riggs,	8 76
Jefferson College Bible Society, Penn. by Richard Brown, treasurer,	45	Falmouth Bible and Foreign Missionary Society, by Thacher Lewis, treasurer,	35 37
<i>Donations from Bible Societies, not Auxiliary.</i>		Amount of sales to individuals,	52 34
Staunton Bible Society, Va. by Joseph Cowan, treasurer,	100		
Baltimore Female Bible Society, Md. by Mrs. Matilda Auchincloss, secretary,	100		
<i>Remittances for Bibles, &c. from Auxiliary Societies.</i>			
Poland Bible Society, Ohio, by Samuel Swan, treasurer,	20		
Nassau Hall Bible Society, N. J. by Wm. Schley, secretary,	40		

Dolls. 2549 68

(Signed) WM. W. WOOLSEY,
Treasurer American Bible Society.

The issues from the Depository of the American Bible Society, during the month of August were—Bibles, 1587; Testaments, 1252. Total, 2839.

Thomas H. Goddard, of New-York, has deposited in the Biblical Library, a French Bible, translated from the Latin vulgate, by Jacobus de Bay, in 1572, duod. calf, printed at Lyons, 1582.

J. NITCHIE, Agent A. B. S.

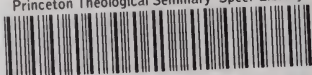


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American Missionary Register

Princeton Theological Seminary-Speer Library



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